# Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department
# Officer Involved Shooting



| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Report Date: 02/10/2021 | Bureau/Station/Facility: South Patrol/Pico Rivera Station | Admin. Invest.? [ ] Hit? [✓] |

**Incident Information**

| | |
|---|---|
| URN: 016-09927-1511-013 | Date: 12/24/2016 Time: 1645 |
| City or Station: Pico Rivera | Nature of Incident: Deputies responded to the location regarding a violently insane person call. The suspect was armed with sharp scissors when a shooting occurred. |
| Location: [redacted] Greendale Avenue Pico Rivera CA | |

**Location Type** (*check one or more*):
- [ ] Backyard
- [ ] Beach
- [ ] Business
- [ ] Freeway
- [ ] Industrial
- [ ] Park
- [ ] Parking Lot
- [ ] Residence
- [ ] Rural
- [ ] School
- [✓] Street
- Other:

**Lighting** (*check only one*):
- [ ] Darkness
- [✓] Daylight
- [ ] Other
- [ ] Street Lights

**Weather** (*circle only one*):
- [✓] Clear
- [ ] Cloudy
- [ ] Fog
- [ ] Rain

Distance: 6-8 feet

Total # of Shots Fired by Deputy: 11

Total # of Shots Fired by Suspect: 0

**Incident Type** (*check one or more*):
- [ ] Accidental
- [✓] Armed Person
- [ ] Fleeing Suspect
- [ ] Foot Pursuit
- [ ] Gun Take Away
- [ ] Moving Vehicle
- [ ] Sniper/Ambush
- [ ] Startle
- [ ] Struggle Involved
- [ ] Traffic Stop
- [ ] Unarmed Person
- [ ] Unintentional
- [ ] Vehicle Pursuit
- [ ] Warrant Service
- [ ] Warning Shot
- Other:

**Initiated by** (*check only one*):
- [ ] Arrest Warrant
- [✓] Call
- [ ] Observation
- [ ] One Person Unit
- [ ] Other
- [ ] Search Warrant
- [ ] Two Person Unit

**Prior Activity** (*check only one*):
- [ ] Detective
- [ ] Inmate Transport
- [ ] Other
- [✓] Routine Patrol

Aero Unit? [ ] Canine Unit? [ ]

**Employee Witnesses**

| Employee # | Last Name | First Name | M.I. | ShiftTime (*check only one*) | ShiftType (*check only one*) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| [redacted] | Lefevre | William | B. | [ ] EM [✓] PM [ ] Day | [✓] Regular [ ] Overtime [ ] Off Duty |
| [redacted] | Parra Jr. | Pedro | | [ ] EM [✓] PM [ ] Day | [✓] Regular [ ] Overtime [ ] Off Duty |
| [redacted] | Belan | Matthew | C. | [ ] EM [✓] PM [ ] Day | [✓] Regular [ ] Overtime [ ] Off Duty |

**Non-Employee Witnesses**

| Last Name | | First Name | | M.I. |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| [redacted] | | [redacted] | | [redacted] |
| Street Address: [redacted] | City: [redacted] | Zip Code: [redacted] | Work Ph | Home Ph: [redacted] |
| [redacted] | | [redacted] | | |
| Street Address: [redacted] | City: [redacted] | Zip Code: [redacted] | Work Ph | Home Ph |
| [redacted] | | [redacted] | | [redacted] |
| Street Address: [redacted] | City: [redacted] | Zip Code: [redacted] | Work Ph | Home Ph |

**Supervisors**

| Employee # | Last Name | First Name | M.I. | (*check one or more*) |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| [redacted] | Creta | Blanca | E. | [✓] On Duty [ ] Present during shooting [ ] Witness to shooting [ ] Involved in shooting |
| | | | | [ ] On Duty [ ] Present during shooting [ ] Witness to shooting [ ] Involved in shooting |

**Watch Sergeant**

| Employee # | Last Name | First Name | M.I. |
|---|---|---|---|
| | N/A | | |

**Watch Commander**

| Employee # | Last Name | First Name | M.I. |
|---|---|---|---|
| [redacted] | [redacted] | [redacted] | [redacted] |

PSTD Use Only

SH # 2418523

SH-R-438A (rev. 10/01/15)

See Reverse

# SUPPLEMENTAL EMPLOYEE WITNESSES
## Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department



**Employee Witnesses**

| Last Name | First Name | M.I. | Street Address | Zip Code | Work Ph | Home Ph |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Rhoads | Jonathan | M. | Pico Rivera Station | 90660 | 562-949-2421 | |
| Creta | Blanca | E. | Internal Affairs Bureau | 90040 | 323-890-5300 | |
| Rodriguez | Johanna | | Pico Rivera Station | 90660 | 562-949-2421 | |
| Guillen | Juan | J. | Pico Rivera Station | 90660 | 562-949-2421 | |
| Reyes | Leticia | X. | Walnut Station | 91789 | 909-595-2264 | |
| Phaneuf | Sean | J. | Pico Rivera Station | 90660 | 562-949-2421 | |
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# Officer Involved Shooting
# Involved Employee Information

URN: 016-09927-1511-013



## Involved Employee

**E 1**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Employee # [redacted] | Last Name: Hernandez | First Name: Jose | M.I.: J. |
| Sex: M Race: H | Rank: Deputy | Unit Assignment: Pico Rivera | Work Assignment (Unit #, Module, etc.): 151A |
| ShiftTime (*circle only one*): ☐ EM ☑ PM ☐ Day | ShiftType (*circle only one*): ☑ Regular ☐ Overtime ☐ Off Duty | Intoxication/Drug Usage? ☐ | Substance Used: None |
| Hospital Admission? ☐ | Hospital Name: | Coroner Case? ☐ | Coroner Case #: — Interviewed? ☑ |
| Hrs of sleep prior to shooting: 6 | Duty Time (hrs): [redacted] | Clothing (*circle only one*): ☐ Plain Clothes no Vest ☐ Plain Clothes w/ Vest ☐ Raid Jacket no Vest ☐ Raid Jacket w/ Vest ☐ Uniform no Vest ☑ Uniform w/ Vest | Other Factors: |
| Age: [redacted] Height: 509 | Weight: 170 | | |
| Range Qualification Date: [redacted] | PPC Qualification Date: [redacted] | Laser Training Date: [redacted] | |
| Certified with Weapon Used? [redacted] | Patrol Certification? [redacted] | Certification Unit: [redacted] | Prior Shootings? [redacted] Number of Prior Shootings: [redacted] Directed Force: [redacted] |
| Weapons Fired Brand: Beretta Caliber: 9 # Shots: 4 | | Weapons Fired Brand: Caliber: # Shots: | |
| Field Training Officer Emp # [redacted] | Last Name [redacted] | First Name [redacted] | M.I. |
| Field Training Officer Emp # [redacted] | Last Name [redacted] | First Name [redacted] | M.I. [redacted] |

**E 2**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Employee # [redacted] | Last Name: Casarez | First Name: Anthony | M.I.: D. |
| Sex: M Race: H | Rank: Deputy | Unit Assignment: Pico Rivera | Work Assignment (Unit #, Module, etc.): 152H |
| ShiftTime (*circle only one*): ☐ EM ☐ PM ☐ Day | ShiftType (*circle only one*): ☐ Regular ☐ Overtime ☐ Off Duty | Intoxication/Drug Usage? ☐ | Substance Used: None |
| Hospital Admission? ☐ | Hospital Name: | Coroner Case? ☐ | Coroner Case #: — Interviewed? ☑ |
| Hrs of sleep prior to shooting: 6 | Duty Time (hrs): [redacted] | Clothing (*circle only one*): ☐ Plain Clothes no Vest ☐ Plain Clothes w/ Vest ☐ Raid Jacket no Vest ☐ Raid Jacket w/ Vest ☐ Uniform no Vest ☑ Uniform w/ Vest | Other Factors: |
| Age: [redacted] Height: 601 | Weight: 195 | | |
| Range Qualification Date: [redacted] | PPC Qualification Date: [redacted] | Laser Training Date: [redacted] | |
| Certified with Weapon Used? [redacted] | Patrol Certification? [redacted] | Certification Unit: [redacted] | Prior Shootings? [redacted] Number of Prior Shootings: [redacted] Directed Force: [redacted] |
| Weapons Fired Brand: Smith & Wesson Caliber: 9 # Shots: 7 | | Weapons Fired Brand: Caliber: # Shots: | |
| Field Training Officer Emp # [redacted] | Last Name [redacted] | First Name [redacted] | M.I. |
| Field Training Officer Emp # [redacted] | Last Name [redacted] | First Name [redacted] | M.I. [redacted] |

**E**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Employee # | Last Name | First Name | M.I. |
| Sex: Race: | Rank: | Unit Assignment: | Work Assignment (Unit #, Module, etc.): |
| ShiftTime (*circle only one*): ☐ EM ☐ PM ☐ Day | ShiftType (*circle only one*): ☐ Regular ☐ Overtime ☐ Off Duty | Intoxication/Drug Usage? ☐ | Substance Used: |
| Hospital Admission? ☐ | Hospital Name: | Coroner Case? ☐ | Coroner Case #: — Interviewed? ☐ |
| Hrs of sleep prior to shooting: | Duty Time (hrs): | Clothing (*circle only one*): ☐ Plain Clothes no Vest ☐ Plain Clothes w/ Vest ☐ Raid Jacket no Vest ☐ Raid Jacket w/ Vest ☐ Uniform no Vest ☐ Uniform w/ Vest | Other Factors: |
| Age: Height: | Weight: | | |
| Range Qualification Date: | PPC Qualification Date: | Laser Training Date: | |
| Certified with Weapon Used? ☐ | Patrol Certification? ☐ | Certification Unit: | Prior Shootings? ☐ Number of Prior Shootings: Directed Force: ☐ |
| Weapons Fired Brand: Caliber: # Shots: | | Weapons Fired Brand: Caliber: # Shots: | |
| Field Training Officer Emp # | Last Name | First Name | M.I. |
| Field Training Officer Emp # | Last Name | First Name | M.I. |

# Officer Involved Shooting Suspect Information

URN: 016-09927-1511-013



## Suspect Information

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| S 1 | Last Name: Li | First Name: Zhonghua | M.I. |
| | **AKA** Last Name | First Name | M.I. |
| | Sex: M Race: A | Street Addr[redacted] | City [redacted] [redacted] |
| | Work Phone: | Home Phone: | Social Security #: | Driver's Licen[redacted] |
| | Age: 48 D.O.B. 04/24/1968 | Height: 5 Weight: 02 | FBI # | CII # |
| | Booking # | Primary Charge: 245 (a)(1) P.C. | Secondary Charge: | |
| | Coroner Case? ☑ | Coroner Case # 2016-09364 | Intoxication/Drug Usage? ☐ | Substance Used: |
| | Armed? ☑ | Apprehended? ☐ | Mental Illness? ☑ | Criminal History? [redacted] |
| | Vehicle Make Model: | Year: | Parole: Probation: | Prior Felony Conviction: |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| S | Last Name | First Name | M.I. |
| | **AKA** Last Name | First Name | M.I. |
| | Sex: Race: | Street Address: | City | State & Zip Code: |
| | Work Phone: | Home Phone: | Social Security #: | Driver's License #: |
| | Age: D.O.B. | Height: Weight: | FBI # | CII # |
| | Booking # | Primary Charge: | Secondary Charge: | |
| | Coroner Case? ☐ | Coroner Case # | Intoxication/Drug Usage? ☐ | Substance Used: |
| | Armed? ☐ | Apprehended? ☐ | Mental Illness? ☐ | Criminal History? ☐ |
| | Vehicle Make Model: | Year: | Parole: Probation: | Prior Felony Conviction: |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| S | Last Name | First Name | M.I. |
| | **AKA** Last Name | First Name | M.I. |
| | Sex: Race: | Street Address: | City | State & Zip Code: |
| | Work Phone: | Home Phone: | Social Security #: | Driver's License #: |
| | Age: D.O.B. | Height: Weight: | FBI # | CII # |
| | Booking # | Primary Charge: | Secondary Charge: | |
| | Coroner Case? ☐ | Coroner Case # | Intoxication/Drug Usage? ☐ | Substance Used: |
| | Armed? ☐ | Apprehended? ☐ | Mental Illness? ☐ | Criminal History? ☐ |
| | Vehicle Make Model: | Year: | Parole: Probation: | Prior Felony Conviction: |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| S | Last Name | First Name | M.I. |
| | **AKA** Last Name | First Name | M.I. |
| | Sex: Race: | Street Address: | City | State & Zip Code: |
| | Work Phone: | Home Phone: | Social Security #: | Driver's License #: |
| | Age: D.O.B. | Height: Weight: | FBI # | CII # |
| | Booking # | Primary Charge: | Secondary Charge: | |
| | Coroner Case? ☐ | Coroner Case # | Intoxication/Drug Usage? ☐ | Substance Used: |
| | Armed? ☐ | Apprehended? ☐ | Mental Illness? ☐ | Criminal History? ☐ |
| | Vehicle Make Model: | Year: | Parole: Probation: | Prior Felony Conviction: |



See Other Side

# SUPPLEMENTAL NON-EMPLOYEE WITNESSES
## Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department



**Non-Employee Witnesses**

| Last Name | First Name | M.I. | Street Address | Zip Code | Work Ph | Home Ph |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| [redacted] | [redacted] | | [redacted] | [redacted] | | |
| [redacted] | [redacted] | | [redacted] | [redacted] | | |
| [redacted] | [redacted] | | [redacted] | [redacted] | | |
| [redacted] | [redacted] | [redacted] | [redacted] | | | |
| [redacted] | [redacted] | [redacted] | [redacted] | [redacted] | | |
| [redacted] | [redacted] | [redacted] | [redacted] | [redacted] | | |
| [redacted] | [redacted] | | [redacted] | [redacted] | | |
| [redacted] | [redacted] | [redacted] | [redacted] | [redacted] | | [redacted] |
| [redacted] | [redacted] | | [redacted] | [redacted] | | [redacted] |
| [redacted] | [redacted] | [redacted] | [redacted] | [redacted] | | [redacted] |
| [redacted] | [redacted] | | [redacted] | [redacted] | | [redacted] |
| [redacted] | [redacted] | | [redacted] | [redacted] | | [redacted] |
| [redacted] | [redacted] | | [redacted] | [redacted] | | [redacted] |
| [redacted] | [redacted] | | [redacted] | [redacted] | | [redacted] |
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# Officer Involved Shooting

URN: 016-09927-1511-013



## Rollout Information

| Arrival Date | Arrival Time | Date Submitted | Date of Recommendation |
|---|---|---|---|
| 12/24/2016 | 2100 | | |

| Employee # | Last Name | First Name | M.I. |
|---|---|---|---|
| [redacted] | Adams | John | D. |
| [redacted] | Hoyt | Jonathan | K. |
| [redacted] | Mannion | Patrick | J. |

## Shooting / Force Information

### *Method*

(AW) Arwen
(BC) Baton:(Control)
(BI) Baton:(Impact)
(BF) Bodily Fluids
(CN) Canine
(CR) Carotid Restraint
(CH) Choke Hold
(CT) Control Holds:(Control Techniques)
(TT) Control Holds:(Team Takedown)
(TD) Control Holds:(Takedown)
(CE) Chemical
(OC) Chemical Agents (OC Spray)
(TG) Chemical Agents (Tear Gas)
(EX) Explosives
(FH) Firearm (Handgun)
(FR) Firearm (Rifle)
(FS) Firearm (Shotgun)
(FO) Firearm (Other)
(FB) Flashbang
(FL) Flashlight
(OE) Other Weapon: Edged
(OV) Other Weapon: Vehicle
(OB) Other Weapon: Blunt Object
(OO) Other Weapon: Other
(PK) Personal Weapon: Feet/Leg: (Kick)
(PS) Personal Weapon: Feet/Leg: (Sweep)
(PH) Personal Weapon (Hand/Arm)
(PP) Personal Weapon (Push)
(PO) Personal Weapon (Other)
(RS) Resistance
(CN) Restraint Device (Capture Net)
(RH) Restraint Device (Handcuffs)
(HB) Restraint Device:Hobble (Legs Only)
(TP) Restraint Device:Hobble (TARP)
(RE) Restraint Device: REACT Belt
(SP) Sap
(SH) Shield
(SG) 37mm Stinger
(SB) Sting Ball
(ST) Stun Bag
(TR) Taser
(UC) Uncooperative

### *Type of Injury*

(AB) Abrasion
(BR) Bruise
(BU) Burn
(CP) Complaint of Pain
(CO) Concussion
(DH) Death
(DI) Dislocation
(DB) Dog Bite
(FR) Fractures
(GS) Gunshot
(HB) Human Bite
(LC) Lacerations
(ND) Nerve Damage
(OD) Organ Damage
(PA) Paralysis
(PW) Puncture Wound
(SD) Soft Tissue Damage
(ST) Sprain/Twists
(UN) Unconscious
(RM) Refused Med Treatment
(NN) NONE

### *Body Part Injured*

(AD) Abdomen
(AK) Ankle
(AR) Arm
(BK) Back
(BT) Buttocks
(CH) Chest
(EL) Elbow
(FA) Face
(FE) Feet
(FI) Fingers
(GE) Genitals
(GR) Groin
(HD) Hand
(HE) Head
(HI) Hip
(IN) Internal
(KN) Knees
(LE) Leg
(NK) Neck
(SH) Shoulder
(WR) Wrist

### *Brand*

(AK) AK-47
(BN) Benelli
(BR) Beretta
(BW) Browning
(CH) Charter Arms
(CO) Colt
(DA) Davis Industries
(GL) Glock
(HA) Harrington & Richardson
(HI) Hi Standard
(HK) H & K
(IT) Ithica
(IV) Iver Johnson
(JE) Jennings
(LO) Lorcin
(LU) Luger
(MA) Marlin
(MO) Mossberg
(NC) NCI aka SKS
(NA) North American
(NO) Norinco
(RA) Raven
(RM) Remington
(RG) RG
(RI) RGI
(RO) Rossi
(SW) Smith & Wesson
(SR) Sturm Ruger
(SS) SIG Sauer
(ST) Sterling
(TA) Taurus
(WE) Weatherby
(WN) Winchester
(US) US Government
(YY) Handmade (Inmate)
(XX) Homemade (Non-Inmate)
(ZZ) Other Brand

### *Caliber*

(9) 9 mm
(10) 10 mm
(12) 12 guage
(20) 20 guage
(21) .22-250
(22) .22 caliber
(23) .223 caliber
(24) .243 caliber
(25) .25 caliber
(30) .308 caliber
(35) .357 caliber
(36) 30-60 caliber
(38) .38 caliber
(40) .40 caliber
(41) .410 guage
(44) .44 caliber
(45) .45 caliber
(50) 50 mm
(SL) Slug
(WW) Other caliber

## *FORCE APPLIED* *(one code per block)*

| Used By (E# or S#) | Used Against (E# or S#) | Method (Code) | Brand (Code) | Caliber (Code) | Authorized Weapon? (Y/N) | Authorized Ammunition? (Y/N) | Type of Injury (Code) | Body Part (Code) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| S#1 | E#1 | OE | ZZ | | N | N | NN | |
| E#1 | S#1 | ST | RM | 12 | Y | Y | BR | AD |
| E#1 | S#1 | FH | BR | 9 | Y | Y | GS | CH |
| E#2 | S#1 | FH | SW | 9 | Y | Y | GS | CH |
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See Front Side

**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES**
**SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT**

# INVESTIGATIVE SUMMARY

| | |
|---|---|
| **INCIDENT:** | **On-Duty Hit Shooting, Suspect Deceased** |
| **IAB FILE NUMBER:** | **SH 2418523 / FO 2512682** |
| **URN#:** | **016-09927-1511-013** |
| **DATE/TIME:** | **December 24, 2016, 1645 hours** |
| **LOCATION:** | [redacted] **Greenglade Avenue, Pico Rivera** |

## SYNOPSIS

On December 24, 2016, an Internal Affairs Bureau (IAB) Shooting Response Team comprised of Acting Lieutenant, Sergeant Patrick Mannion, #[redacted] Sergeant John Adams, #[redacted] and Sergeant Jonathan Hoyt, #[redacted] responded to [redacted] Greenglade Avenue, Pico Rivera, regarding an on-duty hit shooting. Case was reassigned to Sergeant Paulette Cain on May 11, 2020.

Suspect Zhonghua Li sustained gunshot wounds to his face, chest, back, and arms. He was pronounced deceased at the scene. No deputies were injured.

Sergeant Mannion verified the Pico Rivera Station Watch Commander, Lieutenant [redacted] #[redacted] took reasonable steps to ensure the involved personnel did not discuss the incident among themselves or with uninvolved persons prior to being interviewed by the assigned investigators. Sergeant Mannion also ensured Lieutenant [redacted] knew the involved personnel should not collectively consult with their representatives. Additionally, Sergeant Mannion confirmed Lieutenant [redacted] ensured the involved personnel remained in the company of a supervisor until they provided individual statements to the assigned investigators.

Upon their arrival, IAB investigators learned there was an active command post and containment of the crime scene. Investigators learned of the series of events which culminated in the shooting which involved Deputies Anthony Casarez, #[redacted] and Jose Hernandez, Jr., #[redacted]

Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department Homicide Bureau Detectives Frederick Morse, #[redacted] and David Gunner, #[redacted] arrived at the scene and assumed control of the investigation. For further information, refer to the Homicide Bureau case book, under Uniform Report Number (URN) 016-09927-1511-013 **[Exhibit A]**.

## SUMMARY

On December 24, 2016, at approximately 1630 hours, Witness [redacted] left her residence after being threatened by his [redacted] Suspect Zhonghua Li. The suspect made statements to his family members indicating he was going to hurt Witness [redacted] Shortly after [redacted] left the residence, Suspect Zhonghua Li followed her with a pair of thread scissors, in search of his [redacted] Witnesses [redacted] and [redacted] and [redacted] to Suspect Zhonghua Li, followed the suspect outside of the residence and attempted to restrain him. Witness [redacted] feared his [redacted] Suspect Zhonghua Li, would assault his family members and/or neighbors and he called 9-1-1 for assistance.

Suspect Zhonghua Li told Witness [redacted] he believed their [redacted] was inside a neighbor's residence (Witness [redacted], located [redacted] at [redacted] He walked toward Witness [redacted] residence and Witness [redacted] attempted to restrain him by pulling on his arm, but was unsuccessful. Suspect Zhonghua Li continued to walk [redacted] and approached the front door of Witness [redacted] Zhonghua Li pounded on the front door and stated he knew Witness [redacted] was inside. Witnesses [redacted] and [redacted] confronted Suspect Zhonghua Li on the front porch and attempted to remove him from the area. Witness [redacted] grabbed Suspect Zhonghua Li's hand and she was cut by the scissors he was holding.

A neighbor, Witness [redacted] was walking in the area and heard a woman scream. He saw Suspect Zhonghua Li grab Witness [redacted] from the shoulder area and violently shook her body back and forth. Witness [redacted] yelled at Suspect Zhonghua Li and told him, "Hey, take your fuckin' hands off her." Suspect Zhonghua Li released Witness [redacted] and he entered a residence, where he was heard yelling. Witness [redacted] asked Witness [redacted] to call 9-1-1 from her cellphone and she requested the police to respond. Witness [redacted] dialed 9-1-1 and he spoke to a dispatch operator, while he remained outside with Witnesses [redacted] and [redacted]

Suspect Zhonghua Li exited the residence with the pair of scissors in his hand and walked toward the driveway of a nearby residence. Suspect Zhonghua Li and Witness [redacted] yelled at each other in Cantonese. The suspect turned, directed his aggression toward Witness [redacted] and charged at him with the scissors. Witness [redacted] intervened to stop Suspect Li from stabbing Witness [redacted] Suspect Zhonghua Li turned and attempted to stab Witness [redacted] Witness [redacted] tripped Suspect Zhonghua Li, which caused him to fall down to the ground. Suspect Zhonghua Li stood back up to his feet, with the scissors in his hand, and charged toward Witness [redacted] a second time. During the chase, Suspect Zhonghua Li raised his right hand and threw the scissors at Witness [redacted] narrowly missing his head. Suspect Zhonghua Li picked up the scissors and continued to chase Witness [redacted] around parked vehicles. Witness [redacted] eventually escaped.

At approximately 1645 hours, Pico Rivera Station desk personnel received an emergent call for service at [redacted] in the city of Pico Rivera regarding a violently insane person, PRV Incident #PRV16359-0112. The call indicated a male

Asian (Suspect Zhonghua Li), who suffered from mental illness, was combative with his family members. Unit 152H, Deputy Anthony Casarez acknowledged the call over the radio and responded with lights and sirens (Code-3). Unit 151A, Deputy Jose Hernandez Jr. also responded to the location. Unit 151F, Detective Lefevre and Deputy Parra, assumed the primary handle of the call. Detective Lefevre coordinated with responding deputy personnel over the radio and designated a meeting point for the call at Sandoval Avenue and Kells Place. Detective Lefevre advised he had a Taser available for deployment and additionally requested for the field sergeant, Sergeant Blanca Creta, to prepare the 40 millimeter less lethal projectile weapon.

At approximately 1649 hours, the call was updated to an assault with a deadly weapon in progress call. The update stated Suspect Zhonghua Li was stabbing his family members with a pair of scissors. Unit 150S, Sergeant Creta, advised she was responding Code-3. Detective Lefevre asked assisting units over the radio if they had additional less lethal weapons available for deployment. Deputies Casarez and Hernandez individually acknowledged they had a stun bag shotgun available.

Deputies Casarez and Hernandez arrived within moments of each other at the designated meeting point, near Kells Place and Sandoval Avenue. Witness [redacted] waved at the deputies and pointed to the direction of Greenglade Avenue, where the suspect was last seen. Based on the update in the call, which described a stabbing in progress, Deputies Casarez and Hernandez felt the need to take immediate action in order to preserve the safety and lives of the victims. Deputy Casarez voiced an update over the L-TAC frequency, and advised responding units they were on scene and were going to make contact with the possible informant (Witness [redacted]).

Deputy Casarez parked his patrol vehicle on Greenglade Avenue, near Witness [redacted] house. Deputy Hernandez parked a few vehicle lengths behind Deputy Casarez and retrieved a stun bag shotgun from his trunk. As Deputy Casarez exited the patrol vehicle, a crowd of several people, who appeared to be in distress, pointed at Suspect Zhonghua Li. Deputy Casarez told Deputy Hernandez, "That's him," referring to the suspect.

As Deputy Casarez stood on the sidewalk, he asked Suspect Zhonghua Li to identify himself, but the suspect ignored him. Suspect Zhonghua Li was walking in the middle of the street and quickly advanced toward Deputy Hernandez, who was positioned by the rear end of his patrol vehicle. Suspect Zhonghua Li was armed with the scissors in his right hand. Deputy Hernandez repeatedly ordered Suspect Zhonghua Li to stop and drop the weapon. Suspect Zhonghua Li yelled incoherently and continued to advance toward Deputy Hernandez, while pointing the scissors at him in a threatening manner. Deputy Hernandez backed away from the suspect and attempted to create a safe distance between them. Deputy Casarez drew his firearm from the holster, and held Suspect Zhonghua Li at gunpoint. Deputy Casarez ordered Suspect Zhonghua Li to drop the scissors. Deputy Casarez ran past Suspect Zhonghua Li, turned in a westerly direction, and positioned himself parallel with Deputy Hernandez. Deputy Casarez told Deputy Hernandez to employ the stun bag at Suspect Zhonghua Li. Simultaneously,

Deputy Casarez moved backward with Deputy Hernandez in order to create distance from Suspect Zhonghua Li.

From a distance of approximately 10-15 feet, Deputy Hernandez fired one round from the stun bag shotgun. The round struck Suspect Zhonghua Li in the abdomen and caused him to shortly bend forward at the waist. Suspect Zhonghua Li straightened up and continued to advance with the scissors still in his hand. Both deputies continued to give Suspect Zhonghua Li commands to stop and drop the knife. Deputy Hernandez fired a second stun bag round and was unsure where it struck Suspect Li. The second stun bag round did not have any effect and the suspect continued to advance toward the deputies.

Suspect Li approached within approximately six to seven feet of Deputy Hernandez. Deputy Casarez feared for Deputy Hernandez' life, and fired his service firearm approximately three to four times at Suspect Zhonghua Li. Deputy Hernandez dropped the stun bag shotgun to the ground and drew his service firearm. Fearing for his life, he fired an estimated three to five rounds at Suspect Zhonghua Li at approximately the same time as Deputy Casarez fired. Suspect Zhonghua Li did not stop and continued to advance forward with the weapon in his hand. Deputy Casarez fired a second volley of approximately three to four rounds, at which time Suspect Li fell to the ground.

Deputy Casarez broadcasted emergency radio traffic over the duplex patch radio frequency, advising of the deputy involved shooting, and he requested the Los Angeles County Fire Department to respond to their location. Deputies Casarez and Hernandez detained Suspect Li at gunpoint and waited for additional units to arrive before rendering aid to Suspect Zhonghua Li.

Approximately 30 seconds later, Unit 151F, Detective Lefevre and Deputy Parra, and Unit 151, Deputy Belan arrived to the location. Detective Lefevre formulated a tactical plan in order to safely approach Suspect Zhonghua Li and render first aid. He broadcasted their approach on the radio over the duplex patch. Detective Lefevre, Deputies Parra and Belan, approached Suspect Zhonghua Li as he lied on the ground with the weapon in his right hand. Detective Lefevre utilized his expandable baton and placed it across Suspect Zhonghua Li's wrists as a temporary restraining device to secure the suspect's hand in order to safely remove the weapon. When the weapon was secured, the deputies placed the suspect on his left side in the recovery position. Deputies Belan and Parra rendered aid to Suspect Zhonghua Li until they were relieved by Los Angeles County Fire Department personnel.

The Los Angeles County Fire Department personnel arrived on scene approximately two minutes later and rendered aid to Suspect Zhonghua Li. Despite life-saving attempts, Suspect Zhonghua Li succumbed to his wounds and was pronounced deceased at the scene. Detective Lefevre retrieved the stun bag and secured it in the trunk of a patrol vehicle.

**DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S LETTER OF OPINION**

The Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office Justice System Integrity Division reviewed the fatal shooting of Zhonghua Li by Deputies Anthony Casarez and Jose Hernandez, Jr. In their letter of opinion, dated February 27, 2020, Deputy District Attorney Shannon Presby concluded Deputies Anthony Casarez and Jose Hernandez, Jr., acted lawfully in self-defense and defense of others **[EXHIBIT B]**.

## INVOLVED EMPLOYEES AND WORK HISTORY

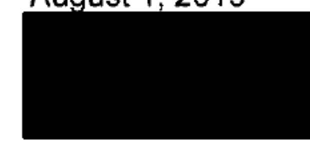
**Jose Hernandez, Jr.,** Deputy Sheriff, #[redacted]
South Patrol Division
Pico Rivera Station

Date of Employment: July 25, 2007
Date Assigned to Patrol/Pico Rivera Station: December 20, 2015
Date Completed Patrol Training:
Prior Shooting incident(s):
Prior Founded Force Incidents:


[redacted]

**Anthony Casarez**, Deputy Sheriff, #[redacted]
South Patrol Division
Pico Rivera Station

Date of Employment: June 6, 2007
Date Assigned to Patrol/Pico Rivera Station: August 1, 2015
Date Completed Patrol Training:
Prior Shooting incident(s):
Prior Founded Force Incidents:


[redacted]

### Equipment Worn On Person

Deputy Hernandez was wearing a Class "A" uniform with a gun belt equipped with his Department issued duty weapon. Additional equipment included one magazine pouch containing two magazines, a Taser, a can of Oleoresin Capsicum (OC) spray, an expandable baton, two sets of handcuffs, and a portable radio.

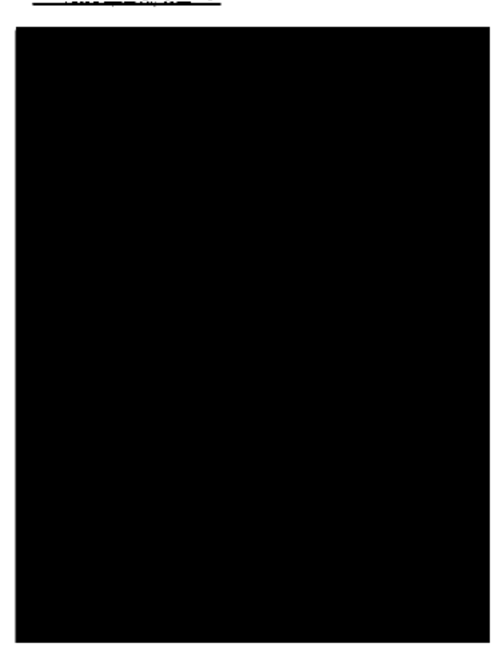
Deputy Casarez was wearing a Class "A" uniform with a gun belt equipped with his Department issued duty weapon. Additional equipment included one magazine pouch containing two magazines, a can of Oleoresin Capsicum (OC) spray, two sets of handcuffs, an expandable baton, a portable radio, and a drop down thigh rig holster containing a Taser.

## SUSPECT INFORMATION

**Zhonghua Li**

Male, Asian, DOB: April 24, 1968, 5'02", 110 pounds
[redacted]

## WITNESSES


[redacted]

## SUSPECT'S INJURIES

Suspect Zhonghua sustained eleven gunshot wounds to his face, chest, back, and arms. See Coroner's report and photographs submitted as **[EXHIBIT A, pages 66-91]**.

## DEPUTY PERSONNEL INJURIES

No deputies were injured.

## PHYSICAL EVIDENCE

All physical evidence was located and collected by Homicide Detectives Robert Kenney, #[redacted] and Joe Espino, #[redacted] They were assisted by Forensic Identification Specialist David Alonso, #[redacted] Forensic Identification Specialist Robert Lio, #[redacted] Senior Criminalist Anny Wu, #[redacted] and Deputy Steve Thomas, #[redacted] from the Sheriff's Crime Lab. For descriptions of the evidence collected and where it was collected, see the Homicide Investigation Book **[EXHIBIT A, pages 18-27, 55-65]**.

## DISTANCE

Deputy Hernandez was approximately six to eight feet away from Suspect Zhonghua Li when he fired the stun bag. He was approximately six to eight feet away from Suspect Li when he fired his firearm.

Deputy Casarez was approximately six to eight feet away from Suspect Zhonghua Li when he fired the first and second volley.

## INVESTIGATOR'S OBSERVATIONS

On December 24, 2016 at approximately 1730 hours, IAB Acting Lieutenant, Sergeant Patrick Mannion, Sergeant John Adams, and Sergeant Jonathan Hoyt responded to the scene. Homicide Bureau Steve Jauch, #[redacted] conducted a briefing of the incident and narrated an escorted walk of the scene.

The scene is described in detail by Homicide Bureau Detectives Robert Kenney, #[redacted] and Joe Espino, #[redacted] **[EXHIBIT A, page 18-27]**. Their description of the scene was consistent with IAB Investigator's observations. The scene was also photographed by the aforementioned Sheriff's Crime Lab personnel **[EXHIBIT E]**.

## WEAPON USED BY DEPUTY JOSE HERNANDEZ

Deputy Hernandez fired two rounds of 12 gauge shot shells from a Remington 870 Police Magnum, 12 gauge pump-action stun bag shotgun, and fired four rounds of Luger 9 millimeter ammunition from his Berretta, model 92FS, semiautomatic pistol. The less lethal stun bag shotgun was examined by Scientific Services Bureau Senior Criminalist Anny Wu, #[redacted] and firearm was examined by Scientific Services Bureau Senior Criminalist April Whitehead, #[redacted] The weapons were found to be functional **[Exhibit A, pages 56-58]**.

Prior to the shooting, Deputy Hernandez qualified with his firearm on [redacted]

Two expended 12 gauge shot shells and two fired beanbags were recovered from the roadway north of [redacted] Greenglade Avenue. Eleven expended 9 millimeter cartridge casings were recovered from the roadway north of [redacted] Greenglade Avenue. Five fired bullets were recovered from Suspect Zhonghua Li's clothing. One fired bullet was recovered from the roadway along the north curb of Greenglade Avenue, northeast of [redacted] Greenglade Avenue. One fired bullet was recovered from the left rear passenger door of a silver Honda CR-V **[Exhibit A, pages 62-64]**.

Date last qualified: [redacted]
Date last trained with weapon:

## WEAPON USED BY DEPUTY ANTHONY CASAREZ

Deputy Casarez fired seven rounds of Luger 9 millimeter ammunition from his Smith & Wesson; model M&P9, semiautomatic pistol. The firearm was examined by Scientific Services Bureau Senior Criminalist April Whitehead (nee Wong) #[redacted] The weapon was found to be functional **[Exhibit A, pages 56-58]**.

Prior to the shooting, Deputy Casarez qualified with his firearm on [redacted]

Eleven expended 9 millimeter cartridge casings were recovered from the roadway north of [redacted] Greenglade Avenue. Five fired bullets were recovered from Suspect Zhonghua Li's clothing. One fired bullet was recovered from the roadway along the north curb of Greenglade Avenue, northeast of [redacted] Greenglade Avenue. One fired bullet was recovered from the left rear passenger door of a silver Honda CR-V **[Exhibit A, pages 62-64]**.

Date last qualified: [redacted]
Date last trained with weapon:

## WEAPONS USED BY SUSPECT ZHONGHUA LI

Suspect Zhonghua Li was armed with a pair of thread scissors.

## PROPERTY DAMAGE

**Honda CRV CA [redacted]** The vehicle was parked along the south curb line of Greenglade Avenue, in front of [redacted] Greenglade Avenue. The vehicle had a bullet strike to the rear passenger's side door. One expended bullet was recovered from the lower frame of the left rear passenger door "B" pillar, at the lower hinge area **[Exhibit A, pages 22-23]**.

## CRIMINAL INVESTIGATORS AND CHARGES FILED

The criminal investigation into the shooting was handled by Detectives Frederick Morse and David Gunner of the Los Angeles County Sheriff Department's Homicide Bureau. No charges were filed because the suspect was deceased.

## LIGHTING AND WEATHER CONDITIONS

The scene was illuminated by natural light at the location. The weather was clear and cool.

## RADIO TRANSMISSIONS

### DISPATCH AND LOCAL-TACTICAL (L-TAC) FREQUENCY REVIEW

The following is a review of some of the highlights from the Dispatch 15 and Local-Tactical (L-TAC) Frequency recording, **[Exhibit C/Radio Traffic]**. The recording of the frequencies were archived together as one fluid recording. The below listed times are not precise, and were calculated from the timestamp (automated voice) at the beginning of the recording. The SCC dispatcher will be referred to as the PRD (Public Response Dispatcher).

**1645 hours**

00:00:12 The PRD voiced a code 3 response to a possible violently insane person call.

00:00:43 Unit 152T2 (Deputy Guillen) acknowledged the code 3 response with a 6 minute ETA.

00:00:58 Unit 152H (Deputy Casarez) acknowledged code 3 response with a 5 minute ETA.

00:1:07 The PRD voiced an update to the call of screaming heard in the background.

**1648 hours**

00:01:33-49 Responding units coordinated on L-TAC and requested less-than-lethal option of Taser.

**1649 hours**

00:02:22-45 Pico Rivera Station desk (150D) on L-TAC, advised units the disturbing party (Suspect Li) was stabbing [redacted] (Witness [redacted] with scissors and requested additional units and a sergeant to respond code 3.

**1650 hours**

00:03:30-39 Unit 151 (Deputy Belan) advised he was responding code 3. PRD voiced the acknowledgment of the code.

00:03:40-59 PRD additionally voiced the call was updated to an assault with a deadly weapon and for a sergeant to respond. Unit 150S (Witness Creta) acknowledged the code 3.

**1651 hours**

00:04:41 Responding units coordinated on L-TAC and requested less-than-lethal option of a stun bag (bean-bag shotgun).

**1652 hours**

00:06:25-50 Responding unit requested aero bureau to respond.

00:07:12-56 Pico Rivera Station desk (150D) on L-TAC, advised responding units the disturbing party was in a yard holding scissors and banging on the front door. Responding units coordinated a plan.

**1653 hours**

00:08:50 Aero Bureau Unit Air 21 advised of a 3 minute ETA. PRD voiced call to Air 21.

**1654 hours**

00:09:18 Unit 152H (Deputy Casarez) advised he was code 6.

00:10:25 Unit 152H advised he made contact with the informant of the call.

00:10:50 Responding units coordinated on L-TAC. A unit requested Unit 150S to respond with an Arwen,

00:12:40 Unit 152H requested the emergency duplex frequency (10-33) and broadcasted a deputy involved shooting (998) occurred with a suspect down and all deputies accounted for.

00:13:20 Unit 151 arrived to the location (10-97).

00:13:24 Unit 150S advised of a 2 minute ETA.

**1657 hours**

00:14:57 Unit 151F (Detective Lefevre and Deputy Parra) advised the suspect was still holding a knife in his hand.

00:15:29 Unit 152D (Reyes) arrived to the location (10-97).

00:15:57 Unit 151F advised they were conducting a "tactical approach."

**1658 hours**

00:16:38 Unit 151F requested the fire department to respond.

**1659 hours**

00:17:33 Unit 150S (Sergeant Creta) arrived to the location.

00:18:48 Air 21 arrived to the location and directed units to divert traffic east and west in order to create a path for the ambulance.

**1701 hours**

00:20:36 The PRD asked units if the emergency duplex frequency was still needed in order to switch to County-tactical (A-TAC 3) frequency. Frequency switched to A-TAC 3.

## VIDEO RECORDINGS

The following is a review of the shooting, which was captured on two cellphone video recordings **[Exhibit D]** by Witness [redacted] The video labeled "Part 1" is approximately 9 seconds long, which depicted the incident as it began with Deputy Hernandez and Deputy Casarez standing near a patrol vehicle.

Deputy Hernandez faced north, and stood near the driver side rear quarter panel, with a yellow stun bag shotgun pointed at Suspect Zhonghua Li. Deputy Casarez faced east, and stood near the front of the patrol vehicle with his firearm pointed at Suspect Zhonghua Li. Suspect Zhonghua Li quickly advanced toward Deputy Hernandez as

Deputy Hernandez walked backward with the stun bag shotgun in his hands. Deputy Casarez followed Suspect Zhonghua Li and tactically positioned himself parallel to Deputy Hernandez' left side, as both deputies faced north, with their weapons drawn toward the suspect.

A gunshot and a woman's scream are heard at approximately the 8 second mark. The video concluded with Deputies Casarez and Hernandez positioned parallel to each other, approximately 4-6 feet away from Suspect Zhonghua Li, with their weapons drawn and pointed toward Suspect Zhonghua Li. The suspect remained standing and his upper body was bent forward at the waist.

The video labeled "Part 2" is approximately 9 seconds long, which depicted the incident after the deputy involved shooting, and Suspect Zhonghua Li was lying on the ground. Deputy Hernandez and Deputy Casarez were standing next to each other and are several feet away from Suspect Zhonghua Li's feet. A yellow stun bag shotgun is laying on the ground in front of Deputy Hernandez and Deputy Casarez. The video concluded when showing Deputy Casarez with his firearm drawn toward Suspect Zhonghua Li.

## STATEMENTS

*The following narratives are intended only as a synopsis of the interviews. Additional information and precise wording may be obtained by reviewing the digitally audio recorded interviews and verbatim transcriptions. Internal Affairs Bureau investigators reviewed any reports authored by the involved deputies and determined they were consistent with their Internal Affairs Bureau Administrative Force Review interviews.*

## INVOLVED EMPLOYEE STATEMENTS

## INVOLVED EMPLOYEE DEPUTY JOSE HERNANDEZ

On December 25, 2016, Deputy Jose Hernandez was interviewed by Homicide Bureau detectives at the Pico Rivera Station. Deputy Hernandez was interviewed a second time on August 13, 2020, by Internal Affairs Bureau investigators, at the Internal Affairs Bureau office. Deputy Hernandez was represented by Attorney Mitchell Kander during both interviews.

On December 24, 2016, Deputy Hernandez was assigned to Pico Rivera Station as Unit 151A on P.M. shift. Deputy Hernandez was assigned to a [redacted] when he heard a voiced radio request for an emergent response to a call for service of a violently insane person. He responded to the call. During his response, the call was originally coordinated by Deputy Casarez, who designated a meeting point for the call at Sandoval Avenue and Kells Place. Deputy Hernandez advised the handling unit he had a less lethal option of a stun bag available for deployment.

The call for service was updated to an assault with a deadly weapon in progress call. The update indicated the suspect was stabbing family members with a weapon. When Deputy Hernandez arrived at the intersection of Sandoval Avenue and Kells Place, he

waited behind Deputy Casarez' vehicle. He saw a male Asian talking on a cell phone, and who waved the deputies over to his location, as he pointed in the direction of Greenglade Avenue. Deputy Hernandez followed Deputy Casarez as they "slowly" drove toward Greenglade Avenue. He explained the reason he and Deputy Casarez proceeded to respond to the call was "because we're trying to preserve life." He parked his vehicle a few vehicle lengths behind Deputy Casarez' patrol vehicle. Deputy Hernandez immediately exited the vehicle and retrieved the stun bag from the trunk, and removed it from the designated carrier bag **(Involved Employee Hernandez' IAB transcript, page 5)**.

Deputy Hernandez saw Deputy Casarez pointing at a male Asian (Suspect Zhonghua Li) standing in the street. He heard Deputy Casarez say, "That's him." Deputy Hernandez believed he was approximately 15-20 feet away from Suspect Zhonghua Li **(Involved Employee Hernandez' IAB interview, page 5)**. Suspect Zhonghua Li walked toward him at a fast pace holding a knife like object with a black handle in his hand. Deputy Hernandez yelled commands and ordered Suspect Zhonghua Li to stop and drop the knife. Suspect Zhonghua Li did not comply with the commands. He locked his eyes on Deputy Hernandez and continued to advance toward him while pointing the knife at him. Deputy Hernandez explained, "I started tactically backing away trying to create distance because I have a stun bag, yelling at him, 'Stop, drop it, stop" **(Involved Employee Hernandez' IAB transcript, page 6)**.

Suspect Zhonghua Li continued to walk toward him and closed the distance to approximately ten feet **(Involved Employee Hernandez' Homicide transcript, page 6)**. Deputy Hernandez feared Suspect Zhonghua Li would stab him and fired one round from the stun bag, which struck the suspect in the abdomen area, and caused him to bend forward at the waist. Deputy Hernandez continued to walk backward to create distance between them. He noticed the first round had no effect on Suspect Zhonghua Li, who continued to advance toward him with the knife in his hand. Deputy Hernandez fired a second round from the stun bag, which also had no effect on Suspect Zhonghua Li. Deputy Hernandez did not recall where Suspect Zhonghua Li was struck with the second stun bag round **(Involved Employee Hernandez' IAB transcript, pages 7-8).**

After firing two stun bag rounds at Suspect Zhonghua Li with no effect, Deputy Hernandez reassessed the situation, and threw the stun bag shot gun on the ground. He stated, "I didn't have time to sling it, he kept coming, I just tossed it (stun bag) to the side." Fearing for his life, Deputy Hernandez un-holstered his firearm and pointed it at Suspect Zhonghua Li, who continued to advance toward him. Deputy Hernandez walked backward, and fired approximately 3 to 5 rounds at Suspect Zhonghua Li, who subsequently fell to the ground. Deputy Hernandez believed Suspect Zhonghua Li was approximately 6 to 7 feet away from him at the time of the shooting. Deputy Hernandez recalled hearing "popping" noises prior to firing his firearm, which he believed was Deputy Casarez shooting at the suspect. **(Involved Employee Hernandez' IAB transcript, pages 9-10, 12).**

Deputy Hernandez detained Suspect Zhonghua Li at gunpoint until assisting deputies arrived. Deputy Casarez activated the emergency duplex frequency and advised a deputy involved shooting occurred. An assisting unit arrived, secured the weapon Suspect Zhonghua Li had in his possession, and rendered aid to the suspect. The paramedics arrive on scene shortly thereafter **(Involved Employee Hernandez' IAB transcript, pages 10-12)**.

Deputy Hernandez estimated Suspect Zhonghua Li was approximately 6 to 7 feet in front of him at the time of the shooting. Deputy Casarez was positioned approximately a few feet to his left side and they were both facing north at the time of the shooting. There were no issues or concerns related to a crossfire situation.

> IAB Note: **Crossfire is defined as a situation which is created when deputy personnel find themselves in a position where their fields of fire and/or shooting backdrop are occupied by another deputy, who may be engaging the same intended target.**

Deputy Hernandez recalled his backdrop during the shooting were parked vehicles. He heard people outside after the shooting occurred and saw they were across the street on his left (west) side. Deputy Hernandez believed he did not have any other force options available to him after firing the stun bag other than lethal force. He explained, "I believe no, I'm not going to risk myself going hands on or going for a spray when somebody has a knife. I want to keep a distance away." Deputy Hernandez did not believe cover or concealment was available to him at the time of the shooting. He did not identify any tactical issues **(Involved Employee Hernandez' IAB transcript, pages 11-13)**.

Homicide Bureau investigators read Deputy Hernandez a video admonishment prior to him viewing the video recordings **[Exhibit D]**. Deputy Hernandez signed the admonishment form acknowledging his understanding of the video review **[Homicide Casebook, Exhibit A, page 47]**. Deputy Hernandez viewed the video footage of the incident on Greenglade Avenue and he identified himself in the video as the deputy holding the stun bag, who was retreating backwards.

Homicide Bureau investigators examined Deputy Hernandez' firearm. Deputy Hernandez carried his Department issued Beretta 92FS firearm with a light attachment. The firearm had one 9mm bullet chambered and 11 bullets in the magazine **(Involved Employee Hernandez' Homicide transcript, pages 14-15)**.

> IAB Note: **Deputy Hernandez' firearm was loaded at capacity, with 16 rounds. During the firearm examination by Homicide Bureau investigators, it was determined Deputy Hernandez fired four rounds from his firearm. Suspect Zhonghua Li sustained 11 gunshot wounds. Eight expended bullets were recovered on scene by Coroner Investigators. One expended bullet and one**

**bullet fragment was recovered from Suspect Zhonghua Li's body during the autopsy [Homicide Casebook, Exhibit A, pages 21-22, 66].**

IAB investigators provided Deputy Hernandez with a photograph of the weapon recovered at the crime scene **[Exhibit F]**. Deputy Hernandez identified the scissors depicted in the photograph as the same weapon he saw Suspect Zhonghua Li holding **(Involved Employee Hernandez' IAB transcript, page 6)**.

**INVOLVED EMPLOYEE DEPUTY ANTHONY CASAREZ**

On December 25, 2016, Involved Employee Deputy Anthony Casarez was interviewed by Homicide Bureau detectives at the Pico Rivera Station. Deputy Casarez was interviewed a second time on August 13, 2020, by Internal Affairs Bureau investigators at the Internal Affairs Bureau office. Deputy Casarez was represented by Attorney Mitchell Kander during both interviews.

On December 24, 2016, Deputy Casarez was assigned to Pico Rivera Station as Unit 152H on P.M. shift. Deputy Casarez was on a [redacted] when he heard a voiced radio request for an emergent response to a call for service of a violently insane person. He acknowledged his availability for the call and responded Code-3 with emergency lights and sirens. Deputy Casarez responded to the location in tandem with Deputy Hernandez. During his response, the call was coordinated by the handling unit, who designated a meeting point for the call at Sandoval Avenue and Kells Place. Deputies Casarez and Hernandez both advised the handling unit they had a less lethal option of a stun bag available for deployment.

The call for service was updated to an assault with a deadly weapon in progress call. The update indicated the suspect was stabbing family members with scissors **(Involved Employee Casarez' IAB transcript, pages 3-4)**. When Deputy Casarez arrived to Sandoval Avenue and Kells Place, he saw a male Asian (Witness [redacted]) on a cellphone "flagging us down." Deputy Casarez advised over the L-TAC frequency, "Hey, we're being flagged down by a possible informant. We're going to roll in and make contact." Witness [redacted] walked toward Greenglade Avenue. Due to the updated information in the call indicating the suspect was stabbing his family members, Deputy Casarez identified the need to preserve life and he followed the male Asian (Witness [redacted]) in his patrol vehicle toward Greenglade Avenue **(Involved Employee Casarez' IAB transcript, pages 3-4)**.

While Deputy Casarez parked his vehicle near a white SUV on Greenglade Avenue, he saw a crowd of Asian descent people. The crowd walked toward Deputy Casarez, and he was unable to tell, "Who was who." The crowd appeared to be panicked and in distress. When Deputy Casarez exited the patrol vehicle, the crowed pointed at an individual, later identified as Suspect Zhonghua Li, who stood approximately 10-12 feet away to the east of his location. Based on the crowd's frantic demeanor, Deputy

Casarez believed they were pointing at the stabbing suspect described in the call **(Involved Employee Casarez' Homicide transcript, page 5)**.

While Deputy Casarez stood on the sidewalk near the passenger side door of the patrol vehicle, and he saw Suspect Zhonghua Li, who wore a thick dark colored jacket, walked rapidly past him holding a metal object with a black handle, and blade in his right hand. The suspect walked toward Deputy Hernandez, who stood by the trunk of his patrol vehicle. Deputy Hernandez was armed with a stun bag shotgun in his hand. Deputy Casarez told Deputy Hernandez, "Hey, that's the guy, shoot him with your stun bag." Simultaneously, Deputy Casarez moved around the suspect in a westerly direction and paralleled Deputy Hernandez in an attempt to avoid a crossfire situation **(Involved Employee Casarez' IAB transcript, page 6)**. He additionally stated, "So I go around the suspect, try to catch up and at least get even with Hernandez, so that there's no crossfire situation and that the lethal option is there just in case the less lethal does fail" **(Involved Employee Casarez' Homicide transcript, page 5)**.

As Deputy Casarez ran around the suspect, and positioned himself parallel to Deputy Hernandez, he ordered Suspect Zhonghua Li to drop the "knife." The suspect ignored the commands and continued to advance toward Deputy Hernandez. Deputy Hernandez fired one stun bag round, which struck Suspect Zhonghua Li in the abdomen area. The impact of the stun bag round caused Suspect Li to slightly bend at the waist and it did not appear to have any effect on him. Suspect Li stood back up in an upright position and advanced forward with the "knife" in his right hand. Deputy Casarez continued to give Suspect Zhonghua Li verbal commands to "stop." Suspect Zhonghua Li continued to rapidly walk forward and yelled incoherently. Deputy Hernandez fired a second round from the stun bag which had no effect on Suspect Zhonghua Li. Deputy Casarez was unable to assess if Suspect Zhonghua Li was under the influence of narcotics or alcohol **(Involved Employee Casarez' IAB transcript, pages 7-8)**.

Deputies Casarez and Hernandez both walked backward to create distance from Suspect Zhonghua Li, but the suspect continued to advance toward Deputy Hernandez. Deputy Casarez feared Deputy Hernandez' life was in danger and the suspect was intent on stabbing Deputy Hernandez. He stated, "At this point, he seemed pretty determined to hurt one of us and mainly Deputy Hernandez, because his attention was focused on him, and I was fearing for his life at that moment." From a distance of 6-7 feet, Deputy Casarez fired approximately 3-4 rounds from his duty weapon at Suspect Zhonghua Li. Deputy Casarez reassessed the situation for approximately two seconds and saw the suspect continued to advance forward with the "knife" in his hand. He stated, "When I first shot him with that first volley of fire, it slowed him down, but he didn't drop the knife, and he didn't stop advancing." Deputy Casarez fired an additional 3-4 rounds from his duty weapon at Suspect Zhonghua Li, and simultaneously heard Deputy Hernandez firing his duty weapon **(Involved Employee Casarez' IAB transcript, pages 8-11)**.

After the second volley of shots, Suspect Zhonghua Li fell to the ground and dropped the knife. Deputy Casarez activated the emergency duplex frequency and advised a

deputy involved shooting occurred. As Suspect Zhonghua Li lied on the ground, Deputy Casarez was unable to see the suspect's left hand and believed he could be armed with an additional weapon. Deputies Casarez and Deputy Hernandez waited for assisting units to arrive in order to safely secure the suspect and render aid. Detective Lefevre and Deputy Parra arrived on scene and rendered aid to Suspect Zhonghua Li. Sergeant Creta arrived on scene. Deputy Casarez does not recall if he provided a public safety statement to Sergeant Creta. Deputy Casarez was later transported to Pico Rivera Station pending his interview with Homicide investigators **(Involved Employee Casarez' IAB transcript, pages 7, 11-12, 14-15)**.

Deputy Casarez recalled his backdrop during the shooting were unoccupied parked vehicles. He heard people screaming and saw people outside of their residences after the shooting occurred. Deputy Casarez believed the only other force options available to him were his OC spray, although he did not believe it was a safe or effective option to use at the time. He stated, "...not only were we in close proximity and he was armed suspect, I think it wouldn't have been effective on top of that. In experience, pepper spray, debilitates and it debilitates the deputy. In a situation like that, I don't think being, or possibly hindered will be effective." Deputy Casarez did not believe cover or concealment was available to him at the time of the shooting. He did not identify any tactical issues **(Involved Employee Casarez' IAB transcript, pages 11-13, 17).**

Homicide Bureau investigators read Deputy Casarez a video admonishment prior to him viewing the video recordings **[Exhibit D]**. Deputy Casarez signed the admonishment form acknowledging his understanding of the video review **[Homicide Casebook, Exhibit A page 47]**. After watching the video, Deputy Casarez stated the video only showed part of the shooting incident. He noticed Suspect Zhonghua Li actively pursued Deputy Hernandez with the weapon quicker than he recalled, as Deputy Hernandez attempted to back up and create distance between them. Deputy Casarez also noticed he tried to stay out of Deputy Hernandez' line of fire by creating an angle for himself in order to safely fire his weapon if needed to since he is left handed.

Homicide Bureau investigators examined Deputy Hernandez' firearm. Deputy Hernandez carried his Department issued Smith & Wesson M&P firearm with a light attachment. The firearm had one 9mm bullet chambered and 10 bullets in the magazine **(Involved Employee Casarez' Homicide transcript, pages 1-2)**.

**IAB Note: Deputy Casarez' firearm was loaded at capacity, with 18 rounds. During the firearm examination by Homicide Bureau investigators, it was determined Deputy Casarez fired 7 rounds from his firearm. Suspect Zhonghua Li sustained 11 gunshot wounds. Eight expended bullets were recovered on scene by Coroner Investigators. One expended bullet and one bullet fragment was recovered from Suspect Zhonghua Li's body during the autopsy [Homicide Casebook, Exhibit A, pages 21-22, 66].**

IAB investigators provided Deputy Casarez with a photograph of the weapon recovered at the crime scene **[Exhibit G]**. Deputy Casarez identified the weapon depicted in the photograph, as the weapon he saw Suspect Zhonghua Li holding in his right hand **(Involved Employee Casarez' IAB transcript, page 13)**. Deputy Casarez was also shown an aerial map of the scene **[Exhibit H]**. Deputy Casarez utilized the map to depict the deputies and suspects positions and movements leading up to the deputy involved shooting. Deputy Casarez utilized a red pen and drew a circle where Suspect Zhonghua Li was located when he first advanced toward the deputies. Five red dots were utilized to indicate Suspect Zhonghua Li's route of travel toward the deputies. He utilized a black pen and marked the map with an "X" to identify where the patrol vehicles were parked. He identified Deputy Hernandez' location with an "H" and an arrow pointed to a black dot, and his own location with a "C" and an arrow pointed down to a black dot. A black "U" like shape was utilized to identify Deputy Casarez' movement around the suspect, where he ultimately positioned himself parallel to Deputy Hernandez, prior to the shooting **(Involved Employee Casarez' IAB transcript, pages 15-16)**.

## EMPLOYEE WITNESS STATEMENTS

## WITNESS DETECTIVE WILLIAM LEFEVRE

On July 29, 2020, at 1143 hours, Witness Detective William Lefevre was interviewed by Internal Affairs investigators at Pico Rivera Station. Detective Lefevre did not have a representative present during his interview and he related the following.

On December 24, 2016, Detective Lefevre was assigned to Pico Rivera Station as a training officer on P.M. shift. Detective Lefevre worked in a two person patrol unit, Unit 151F, with Deputy Parra. Detective Lefevre responded to an insane person call for service in which family members had fought each other. The call was upgraded to an assault with a deadly weapon emergent call and the disturbing party (Suspect Zhonghua Li) was armed with a knife or sharp object. He did not recognize the incident address as a location on any calls for service he had responded to in the past **(Witness Lefevre's transcript, pages 2-3)**.

Detective Lefevre requested to have the primary charge in the investigation of the call and coordinated the call for service. He recalled asking Deputy Reyes and another unit to take a position to the rear of the location. He also directed assisting units to a designated meeting point at Kells Place and Sandoval Avenue. He asked his assisting units for less lethal weapons such as the stun bag and Taser. Detective Lefevre directed the field sergeant to prepare the less lethal 40 millimeter. Detective Lefevre coordinated the call and intended to "assign, delegate and then make a tactical approach" when assisting units arrived at their designated positions **(Witness Lefevre's transcript, pages 3-4)**.

Detective Lefevre and Deputy Parra were approximately 30 seconds away, when he heard an emergent broadcast on the duplex frequency regarding a deputy involved

shooting. When they arrived on scene, Detective Lefevre parked the patrol vehicle southeast of Deputy Hernandez' patrol vehicle on Kells Place and Greenglade Avenue. He saw Deputy Casarez and Deputy Hernandez were facing north and they were detaining the suspect at gunpoint. Detective Lefevre saw the suspect lying on his back bleeding, and had an object in his right hand **(Witness Lefevre's transcript, pages 5-6)**.

Detective Lefevre advised a tactical plan with assisting deputies, Deputies Parra and Belan, regarding their approach to the suspect to render aid. He broadcasted their approach on the radio over the duplex patch. Detective Lefevre, Deputies Parra, and Belan approached the suspect. Detective Lefevre expanded his baton across the suspect's right wrist, and utilized it as a temporary restraining device, in order to secure the suspect's hand and safely remove the weapon. The suspect appeared to be unconscious but was still breathing. When the weapon was secured, the deputies placed the suspect on his left side in the recovery position. The Los Angeles County Fire Department arrived on scene within approximately two minutes and treated the suspect **(Witness Lefevre's transcript, pages 6-8)**.

Detective Lefevre observed a stun bag laying on the street approximately 10 feet west from where he and the deputies stood. The slide on the stun bag was locked in the half way position and believed it may have had a mechanical malfunction. Detective Lefevre retrieved the stun bag and secured it in the trunk of a patrol vehicle. Detective Lefevre retrieved the stun bag because, "It was just a chaotic scene. I didn't want somebody to come pick that up and then use it against us, so that's why I recovered it and threw it in the back of one of the patrol vehicles" **(Witness Lefevre's transcript, pages 8-9)**.

Detective Lefevre secured the area and used crime scene tape to block off the streets. He assigned assisting units to contact residents in the area in order to locate potential witnesses. Detective Lefevre and Deputy Parra contacted the residents of the initial call for service, but due to a language barrier, they were unable to obtain a statement from them. Detective Lefevre did not witness the force or shooting. Detective Lefevre did not identify any tactical concerns regarding the incident **(Witness Lefevre's transcript, pages 9-10)**.

## WITNESS DEPUTY PEDRO PARRA

On July 30, 2020, at 1318 hours, Involved Employee Deputy Pedro Parra was interviewed by Internal Affairs investigators at the Internal Affairs Bureau office. Deputy Parra was represented by attorney Elizabeth Gibbons.

On December 24, 2016, Deputy Parra was assigned to Pico Rivera Station as a patrol [redacted] deputy. He was assigned to a two person patrol unit, Unit 151F, on P.M. shift, with his [redacted] Detective Lefevre. They responded to a violently insane person call for service, in which the suspect confronted family members. The call was upgraded to an assault with a deadly weapon emergent call and the suspect was assaulting family members. Deputy Parra did not recognize the incident address as

location on any calls for service he had responded to in the past **(Witness Parra's transcript, pages 2-3)**.

Deputy Parra recalled the call was coordinated and believed assisting units were advised to ascertain and identify the suspect upon arrival. While they responded to the call for service, Deputy Parra heard an emergent broadcast on the radio regarding the deputy involved shooting. They arrived on scene and parked the patrol vehicle on Kells Place in a northwest direction. Deputy Parra recalled they were the fourth unit on scene and Deputy Belan had arrived slightly ahead of them **(Witness Parra's transcript, pages 3-5)**.

Deputy Parra saw the suspect was lying on the ground, while Deputy Casarez and Deputy Hernandez detained the suspect at gunpoint. Deputy Parra did not witness the shooting or the force. The deputies formulated a tactical plan to approach the suspect and to render first aid. Deputy Casarez and Deputy Hernandez remained at their position, and continued to detain the suspect at gunpoint, while Deputy Parra and Deputy Belan approached the suspect. They turned the suspect on his side and conducted a pat down search of his person for weapons. Deputy Parra saw a sharp object approximately a foot away from the suspect. The fire department was staging near the scene and they were directed to their location to treat the suspect **(Witness Parra's transcript, pages 5-7)**.

Deputy Parra recalled a stun bag shotgun laying on the ground near the middle of the street. Detective Lefevre retrieved the stun bag and placed it in a patrol vehicle. Fire department personnel responded and pronounced the suspect deceased. Deputy Parra and Detective Lefevre secured the crime scene and assigned assisting deputies to locate witnesses. Deputy Parra and Detective Lefevre contacted the suspect's family members, but due to a language barrier, they were only unable to get a statement from them regarding the incident. They were only able to ascertain an altercation with the suspect and family members had occurred. Deputy Parra authored a report regarding his actions during the incident. He did not identify any tactical concerns regarding the incident **(Witness Parra's transcript, pages 7-8)**.

## WITNESS DEPUTY MATTHEW BELAN

On September 2, 2020, at 0503 hours, Witness Deputy Matthew Belan was interviewed by Internal Affairs investigators at Pico Rivera Station. Deputy Belan did not have a representative present during his interview.

Deputy Belan was assigned to Pico Rivera Station as Unit 151 on P.M. shift. He responded to [redacted] after hearing a preliminary request to respond to the location regarding an assault with a deadly weapon call. The preliminary response request was made by the Pico Rivera Station dispatcher over the tactical frequency (L-TAC).

Deputy Belan responded to the location and arrived within four to six minutes. Approximately 20 seconds prior to his arrival, he heard "998" broadcasted over the main dispatch channel. Upon arriving on scene, Deputy Belan saw Deputies Casarez and Hernandez standing near each other, both facing east. The suspect was approximately 25 feet in front of them **(Witness Belan's transcript, page 4)**.

**IAB Note: 998 is the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department's radio code indicating a deputy has been involved in a shooting.**

Deputy Belan described the suspect lying on the ground, "clasping on to something." The suspect was still breathing at the time. Deputy Belan approached the suspect and conducted a pat down search of the suspect's clothing. He saw the suspect grasping what appeared to be a weapon with a curved blade. Deputy Belan attempted to start chest compressions, but he had difficulty in positioning his hands due to the extent of the suspect's injury. Deputy Belan described the suspect making gurgling sounds shortly after he approached to start the chest compressions and he believed the suspect stopped breathing shortly thereafter. Deputy Belan did not see any other weapons on the suspect **(Witness Belan's transcript, pages 4-6)**.

Deputy Belan saw a stun bag shotgun laying on the ground, near the area where Deputy Hernandez was standing. He recognized the stun bag shotgun's yellow "less lethal" markings. The stun bag shotgun was removed from the ground and secured in the trunk of a patrol car; however, Deputy Belan did not remember who secured it.

Deputy Belan interviewed Witness [redacted] a [redacted] of the suspect. [redacted] spoke Cantonese, but was able to speak broken English. Witness [redacted] stated prior to the incident, the suspect was pacing back and forth all day and had stated he wanted to kill his [redacted] The suspect armed himself with a pair of scissors and stated, "I'm going to kill [redacted] He exited the front door to approach the [redacted] who was in the front yard of the residence **(Witness Belan's transcript, page 8)**.

## WITNESS DEPUTY JONATHAN RHOADS

On July 29, 2020, at 0715 hours, Witness Deputy Jonathan Rhoads was interviewed by Internal Affairs investigators at Pico Rivera Station. Deputy Rhoads did not have a representative present during his interview.

On December 24, 2016, Deputy Rhoads was assigned to Pico Rivera Station as Unit 151A on A.M. shift. Deputy Rhoads heard emergent radio traffic broadcasted on the duplex patch regarding a deputy involved shooting. When Deputy Rhoads arrived on scene, he saw Deputies Casarez and Hernandez in the middle of the street and several people were outside. Deputy Rhoads described the scene as "kind of chaos at the time" as deputies tried to contain the area and the street **(Witness Rhoads' transcript, pages 1-3)**.

Deputy Rhoads believed the suspect was being medically treated by the Los Angeles County Fire Department when he arrived on scene. Deputy Rhoads did not witness the force or the shooting. He recalled being one of the last units to arrive on scene.

Deputy Rhoads canvassed the area for witnesses at the direction of Sergeant Creta. He contacted Witness [redacted] who told him she heard arguing and saw the suspect arguing with the victim from the original call for service **(Witness Rhoads' transcript, pages 3-5)**.

Deputy Rhoads authored a supplemental report regarding his actions during the incident. He did not have any tactical concerns about the incident **(Witness Rhoads' transcript, page 5)**.

## WITNESS SERGEANT BLANCA CRETA

On July 31, 2020, at 1042 hours, Witness Sergeant Blanca Creta was interviewed by Internal Affairs investigators at the Internal Affairs Bureau office. Witness Creta was represented by Teresa O'Neil, labor representative for the Los Angeles County Professional Peace Officers Association.

On December 24, 2016, Witness Creta was assigned to Pico Rivera Station as a field sergeant on P.M. shift. Witness Creta responded to an emergent call regarding a person who was armed with a knife which was dispatched over the radio. She was assigned as an assist to the call. As Sergeant Creta responded, there was an update to the call, which indicated the suspect had assaulted family members and chased people down the street **(Witness Creta's transcript, pages 3-4)**.

When Sergeant Creta arrived on scene, she saw the unresponsive suspect lying on the ground and he was being medically treated by fire department personnel. Deputy Hernandez and Deputy Casarez were standing in close proximity to the suspect and she checked on their well-being. She ensured a crime scene containment was established and she directed a deputy to canvas the area for witnesses **(Witness Creta's transcript, page 4)**.

Sergeant Creta recalled seeing a stun bag lying on the ground and ensured a deputy was standing next to it in order to preserve the scene. Deputy Hernandez and Deputy Casarez reported their use of force to Sergeant Creta. Both deputies provided Sergeant Creta with a public safety statement; they gave her a general synopsis of what occurred, the direction they shot, and the weapons that were used **(Witness Creta's transcript, pages 5-6)**.

Sergeant Creta contacted Lieutenant [redacted] and asked for his assistance regarding the deputy involved shooting. Lieutenant [redacted] made the required notifications and ensured the involved deputies were transported to the station. Sergeant Creta authored a report on her actions during the incident. She did not have any concern regarding the tactics used in the incident **(Witness Creta transcribed page 6)**.

## WITNESS DEPUTY JOHANNA RODRIGUEZ

On August 4, 2020, at 0623 hours, Witness Deputy Johanna Rodriguez was interviewed by Internal Affairs investigators at Pico Rivera Station. Deputy Rodriguez did not have a representative present during her interview.

On December 24, 2016, Deputy Rodriguez was assigned to Pico Rivera Station as Unit 151T1 on A.M. shift. At the conclusion of her shift, Deputy Rodriguez heard an emergent radio broadcast on the duplex frequency regarding a deputy involved shooting and responded to the location. Upon her arrival, she recalled the scene was contained. Deputy Rodriguez contacted Lieutenant [redacted] and she was directed to canvass the area for surveillance video footage. Deputy Rodriguez did not witness the force or shooting and did not have any tactical concerns regarding this incident. At the conclusion of her assignment, she authored a report **(Witness Rodriguez' transcript, pages 3-4)**.

## WITNESS DEPUTY JUAN GUILLEN

On July 29, 2020, at 1500 hours, Witness Deputy Juan Guillen was interviewed by Internal Affairs investigators at Pico Rivera Station. Deputy Guillen did not have a representative present during his interview.

On December 24, 2016, Deputy Guillen was assigned to Pico Rivera Station as Unit 151T2 on P.M. shift. Deputy Guillen recalled a family disturbance or assault with a deadly weapon call for service was dispatched over the radio. He arrived on scene and positioned his vehicle for containment purposes near Colfair Street and Greenglade Avenue. Deputy Guillen was approximately a block from the incident location and saw Deputy Casarez and Deputy Hernandez near the entrance of the cul-de-sac. Deputy Guillen did not witness the force or shooting. Deputy Guillen did not have any tactical concerns regarding this incident **(Witness Guillen's transcript, pages 3-6)**.

## WITNESS SERGEANT LETICIA REYES

On August 6, 2020, at 1323 hours, Witness Employee Sergeant Leticia Reyes was interviewed by Internal Affairs investigators at the Internal Affairs Bureau office. Sergeant Reyes did not have a representative present during her interview.

On December 24, 2016, Sergeant Reyes was assigned to Pico Rivera Station as Unit 152D on P.M. shift. Sergeant Reyes responded to the emergent call for service regarding a family disturbance. A male family member was outside of the residence, acting irate, and was holding a pair of scissors. While she responded to the call, she heard an emergent broadcast of a deputy involved shooting. She arrived on scene and positioned her vehicle for containment purposes on an outer perimeter near Kells Place and Sandoval Avenue. Sergeant Reyes was tasked to canvass the area for witnesses. Sergeant Reyes did not witness the force or shooting and did not have any tactical concerns regarding the incident **(Witness Reyes' transcript, pages 3-5).**

## WITNESS DEPUTY SEAN PHANEUF

On July 30, 2020, at 1208 hours, Involved Employee Deputy Sean Phaneuf was interviewed by Internal Affairs investigators at Pico Rivera Station. Deputy Phaneuf did not have a representative present during his interview.

On December 24, 2016, Deputy Phaneuf was assigned to Pico Rivera Station on P.M. shift. Deputy Phaneuf was on a [redacted] when a person insane call for service was dispatched over the radio. He recalled the call stated a male Asian swung a hammer or knife at family members. Deputy Phaneuf heard the call was updated to an emergency. Shortly after, he heard an emergent broadcast on the duplex frequency of a deputy involved shooting **(Witness Phaneuf's transcript, pages 2-3)**.

Deputy Phaneuf noticed his [redacted] He responded with lights and siren to the location. Prior to his arrival, Deputy Phaneuf was directed by the watch deputy to establish a command post at the probation office on the 300 block of Sandoval Avenue. Deputy Phaneuf was unable to see the involved deputies from his location. He did not witness the force or shooting. Deputy Phaneuf did not have any tactical concerns regarding this incident **(Witness Phaneuf's transcript, pages 3-4)**.

## CIVILIAN WITNESS STATEMENTS

### WITNESS [redacted]

On December 25, 2016, at approximately 2200 hours, Homicide Bureau detectives interviewed Witness [redacted] at her residence. Also, present during the interview was an Internal Affairs Bureau investigator. The interview was conducted in Cantonese and translated into English by California Highway Patrol Officer [redacted]

Witness [redacted] is the [redacted] of Suspect Zhonghua Li. Suspect Zhonghua Li previously lived in China, and he has lived with her family since September of 2015. Suspect Zhonghua Li shared a room at the residence with his [redacted]

On December 24, 2016, Suspect Zhonghua Li woke up at approximately 0900 hours and left the house on foot. Witness [redacted] drove around the neighborhood and attempted to locate Suspect Zhonghua Li, but was unable to find him. Between 1100 hours and 1200 hours, Witness [redacted] was contacted by a [redacted] who informed her of Suspect Li's whereabouts, and she returned him home.
At approximately 1630 hours, Suspect Zhonghua Li threatened to assault his [redacted] Witness [redacted] The [redacted] left the residence and walked down the street. Suspect Zhonghua Li, left the residence with a pair of scissors, and attempted to locate his [redacted] at a nearby residence ([redacted]. Witness [redacted] followed Suspect Zhongua and attempted to remove the scissors from his hand but she was unsuccessful. A neighbor (Witness [redacted] witnessed the struggle and asked her if

she needed help. Witness [redacted] told the neighbor she needed help removing the scissors from Suspect Zhonghua Li's hand because she was concerned he would "harm" someone. Suspect Zhonghua Li proceeded to chase after the neighbor with the scissors **(Witness [redacted] transcript, pages 3-7; 9)**.

Suspect Zhonghua Li walked to the residence located [redacted] and stood on the porch. Witness [redacted] was concerned Suspect Zhonghua Li would harm anyone who answered the door, and attempted to pull him away from the area. As Witness [redacted] pulled and grabbed Suspect Zhonghua Li by the hand, she was "poked" by the scissors **(Witness [redacted] transcript, page 7)**.

As Witness [redacted] continued to attempt to pull Suspect Zhonghua Li away from the porch, she observed two patrol vehicles arrive on scene. When the deputies arrived, Suspect Li stated he was "not afraid" of the police and wanted to "harm" them as well. Suspect Zhonghua Li walked toward the deputies and she walked in the opposite direction. Witness [redacted] heard the deputies give the suspect what she perceived as commands. Witness [redacted] does not speak English, but she heard the deputies tell the suspect to "stop" two or three times. Suspect Zhonghua Li refused to obey the commands directed to him by deputies. Witness [redacted] believed Suspect Zhonghua Li wanted to harm the deputies based on his comment and by the "way that he was standing." Homicide investigators asked Witness [redacted] if Suspect Li was threatening the deputies, and she replied, "Yes," but did not elaborate further **(Witness [redacted] transcript, pages 7-8; 12-13)**.

Witness [redacted] heard the deputies fire two or three shots, and estimated the deputies were standing approximately 10 yards away from Suspect Zhonghua Li at the time of the shooting **(Witness [redacted] transcript, pages 11-13)**. She showed Homicide investigators where she was standing at during the incident. Witness [redacted] stood near her [redacted] (Witness [redacted] on the south sidewalk, a few houses east of their residence.

Witness [redacted] reiterated she was glad the neighbor [redacted] did not answer their door while Suspect Zhonghua Li was trying to find his [redacted] Witness [redacted] believed "something would've happened because the way he was acting and his intent" **(Witness [redacted] transcript, page 10)**. Witness [redacted] said this was the first time Suspect Zhonghua Li threatened her family with a weapon. Suspect Zhonghua Li did not speak English and only spoke a dialect of Chinese.

Witness [redacted] stated Suspect Zhonghua Li suffered from mental illness and was acting strange. Once a week, at approximately 0300 hours, Suspect Zhonghua Li would wake up yelling and making a commotion. Suspect Zhonghua Li had repeatedly threatened her [redacted] but did not act on the threats. Suspect Li was taking medications for approximately one month and she believed the medications worsened his condition. Suspect Zhonghua Li's mental health issues became more pronounced when in his twenties **(Witness [redacted] transcript, pages 4-6)**.

## WITNESS [redacted]

On December 25, 2016, at approximately 2200 hours, Homicide Bureau detectives interviewed Witness [redacted] at her residence. Also, present during the interview was an Internal Affairs Bureau investigator. The interview was conducted in Cantonese and translated into English by California Highway Patrol Officer [redacted]. Witness [redacted] related the following.

Witness [redacted] moved to America from China in 2005. Her [redacted] Suspect Zhonghua Li, had recently moved to America and lived at her residence. Suspect Zhonghua Li shared a bedroom with her and her [redacted] Witness [redacted]

Suspect Zhonghua Li had not been sleeping well for approximately four to five days and was causing problems at night. On one recent occasion, Suspect Zhonghua Li woke up in the middle of the night and hit his [redacted] on the head with a cell phone. Witness [redacted] believed Suspect Zhonghua Li suffered from mental health issues since he was two years old. He was currently prescribed medication to prevent him from "being so physical." She did not believe the medication helped Suspect Zhonghua Li **(Witness [redacted] transcript, pages 3-6)**.

Early on December 24, 2016, Suspect Zhonghua Li left the residence and his whereabouts were unknown. Witness [redacted] found Suspect Zhonghua Li and brought him home at approximately 1100 hours. Throughout the afternoon, Suspect Li began making a commotion in the house. Suspect Zhonghua Li threatened his [redacted] Witness [redacted] and repeatedly stated he wanted to "hit" him. At approximately 1600 hours, Witness [redacted] left the residence. Suspect Zhonghua Li remained inside the house, and continued to cause problems and stated he was going to hurt his [redacted] Sometime later, Suspect Zhonghua Li grabbed a pair of scissors and left the residence **(Witness [redacted] transcript, pages 7-8)**.

Witnesses [redacted] and [redacted] followed Suspect Zhonghua Li outside and attempted to restrain him. Suspect Li went [redacted] and pounded on the neighbor's front door ([redacted], because he believed Witness [redacted] was inside the neighbor's residence. Witness [redacted] and Witness [redacted] tried to stop Suspect Zhonghua Li from knocking on the door **(Witness [redacted] transcript, pages 7-8)**.

While Witnesses [redacted] and [redacted] were on the front porch with the suspect, deputy personnel arrived on scene. Suspect Zhonghua Li ran toward the deputies with the scissors in his hand. Witness [redacted] and [redacted] walked to the sidewalk. Witness [redacted] recalled seeing a deputy holding a large yellow or orange type weapon.

She heard the deputies yell commands at the suspect, but she did not understand what the deputies were saying. Witness [redacted] believed the deputies were saying, "Don't move," although she was not sure. She believed there was three deputies on scene at the time **(Witness [redacted] transcript, pages 10-12)**.

Suspect Zhonghua Li continued to rapidly advance toward the deputies with the scissors in his hand. Witness [redacted] believed Suspect Zhonghua Li was going to "harm the deputies" based on the way he held the scissors as he ran toward them **(Witness [redacted] transcript, page 12)**. Witness [redacted] heard three shots fired by the deputies. Witness [redacted] was unable to describe any further details after the deputy involved shooting **(Witness [redacted] transcript, page 16)**. She stood next to Witness [redacted] when the incident occurred.

**WITNESS [redacted]**

On December 24, 2016, at approximately 2330 hours, Homicide Bureau detectives interviewed Witness [redacted] at the Pico Rivera Station.

On December 24, 2016, at approximately 1600 hours, Witness [redacted] was walking on Greenglade Avenue towards his friend's house. He saw three Asian adults arguing and screaming in front of a house on Greenglade Avenue. Witness [redacted] described the three Asians as a male who was approximately 50 years old (Suspect Zhonghua Li), a female approximately 50 years old (Witness [redacted], and a second female approximately 70 years old (Witness [redacted]. Witness [redacted] saw Suspect Zhonghua Li grab Witness [redacted] from the shoulders and he violently shook her back and forth. Witness [redacted] yelled at Suspect Zhonghua Li, "Hey…take your fuckin' hands off her." Witness [redacted] grabbed Witness [redacted] and they walked toward the residence located at [redacted] Greenglade Avenue. Witness [redacted] believed the three Asian adults spoke a Chinese dialect **(Witness [redacted] transcript, pages 1-4)**.

Witness [redacted] waited outside with the two females, while Suspect Zhonghua Li went inside the residence. Witness [redacted] handed Witness [redacted] a cellphone and asked him to call 9-1-1 for help. Witness [redacted] dialed 9-1-1, and while he was speaking with the dispatch operator, Suspect Zhonghua Li exited the residence. The suspect appeared to be upset, was yelling in Chinese, and he pointed to a residence directly across the street, west of where Witness [redacted] was standing. Suspect Li turned toward Witness [redacted] and the females, and was observed holding pair of scissors in his left hand. Suspect Zhonghua Li charged at Witness [redacted] with the scissors and chased him. Witness [redacted] ran away and remained on the phone with the dispatcher. Witness [redacted] grabbed Suspect Zhonghua Li by the shoulders and tripped him, which caused Suspect Zhonghua Li to fall on his back to the ground. Suspect Zhonghua Li continued to hold the scissors in his hand after he fell **(Witness [redacted] transcript, pages 4-7)**.

Suspect Zhonghua Li stood back up and chased Witness [redacted] During the chase, Suspect Zhonghua Li raised his right hand and threw the scissors at Witness [redacted] narrowly missing Witness [redacted] head. Suspect Zhonghua Li picked up the scissors and continued to chase Witness [redacted] around vehicles parked on the street. Witness [redacted] chased after Suspect Zhonghua Li and attempted to intervene. Witness [redacted] was eventually able to get away. Witness [redacted] and Suspect Zhonghua Li

walked away together and Witness [redacted] believed the suspect had calmed down **(Witness [redacted] transcript, pages 4-7; 9-10)**.

Witness [redacted] left the area and continued to walk to his friend's house. He later heard the sound of police sirens coming from the direction where he initially contacted the three Asian adults. Shortly thereafter, Witness [redacted] heard what he believed to be six to seven gunshots and a female screaming. Witness [redacted] ran back to the location and saw two or three deputies standing with their guns drawn and pointed toward a person lying on the street. He did not witness the shooting. Witness [redacted] approached within ten feet away from the deputies, and he recognized the person lying on the ground as Suspect Zhonghua Li. He was advised by two female neighbors Suspect Zhonghua Li had a history of mental illness **(Witness [redacted] transcript, pages 9-15)**.

**<u>WITNESS</u>** [redacted]

On December 25, 2016, at approximately 2200 hours, Homicide Bureau detectives interviewed Witness [redacted] at his residence. Also, present during the interview was an Internal Affairs Bureau investigator. The interview was conducted in Cantonese and translated into English by California Highway Patrol Officer [redacted]

Witness [redacted] was the father of Suspect Zhonghua Li. Prior to December 24, 2016, Suspect Zhonghua Li caused commotions in the middle of the night and had pushed Witness [redacted] two days prior to the incident. Early on December 24, 2016, Witness [redacted] left the residence on foot because Suspect Zhonghua Li repeatedly stated he wanted to hit him. Witness [redacted] was afraid of Suspect Zhonghua Li and left the residence. Witness [redacted] did not see or hear the deputies arrive and did not witness the deputy involved shooting. Witness [redacted] did not recall the street he was on but believed he "went pretty far."

Suspect Zhonghua Li has suffered from mental health problems since he was young. Suspect Li was treated by a doctor on a couple of occasions and has been prescribed medication. He did not know Suspect Zhonghua Li's mental health diagnosis **(Witness [redacted] transcript, pages 1-3)**.

Homicide Bureau detectives had Witness [redacted] identify a California Department of Motor Vehicles photograph of Suspect Zhonghua Li **(Witness [redacted] transcript, pages 1-2)**. Witness [redacted] provided a verbal and written consent for Homicide detectives to search and recover any evidence in his shared bedroom which was necessary for their investigation **(Witness [redacted] transcript, pages 1-3)**.

**<u>WITNESS</u>** [redacted]

On December 25, 2016, at approximately 0013 hours, Homicide Bureau detectives interviewed Witness [redacted] at his residence. Also, present during the interview

was an Internal Affairs Bureau investigator. The interview was conducted in Cantonese and translated into English by California Highway Patrol Officer [redacted]

Suspect Zhonghua Li moved from China to the United States in September of 2015. Witness [redacted] believed his [redacted] Suspect Zhonghua Li, suffered from mental illness because he continually yelled incoherently at people and he spoke to himself. Witness [redacted] never saw Suspect Zhonghua Li physically attack anyone before this incident **(Witness [redacted] transcript, page 2)**.

On the date of the shooting, Witness [redacted] heard Suspect Zhonghua Li arguing with an unknown person in the house at approximately 0900 hours. When the arguing concluded, he learned Suspect Zhonghua Li had left the residence. A short time later, Witness [redacted] took his [redacted] the suspect's [redacted] (Witness [redacted] to look for Suspect Zhonghua Li. When they located him, they brought him home at approximately 1200 hours. Suspect Zhonghua Li continued to argue with family members and spoke incoherently about "nonsense" throughout the afternoon **(Witness [redacted] transcript, page 3)**.

At approximately 4:30 pm, Witness [redacted] heard Suspect Zhonghua Li creating "more commotion" in the house as he continued to argue with family members. Witness [redacted] walked outside of the residence to call 9-1-1 because he feared for the safety of his [redacted] due to the continued commotion by Suspect Zhonghua Li. Witness [redacted] wanted law enforcement to respond and mediate the situation with Suspect Zhonghua Li. As Witness [redacted] waited outside, he saw his [redacted] and [redacted] follow the suspect outside of the residence. His [redacted] pulled Suspect Zhonghua Li's arm as they both crossed the street. Witness [redacted] was concerned because Suspect Zhonghua Li had become hostile with his [redacted] and believed he would become hostile to his neighbors. Witness [redacted] told the dispatcher to hurry. Witness [redacted] did not see Suspect Zhonghua Li holding a weapon **(Witness [redacted] transcript, pages 5, 7)**.

Two deputies arrived on scene and Witness [redacted] used his index finger to point to where Suspect Zhonghua Li was located. Witness [redacted] and [redacted] in law walked across the street and returned to their residence. As the deputies exited their patrol vehicles, Witness [redacted] saw Suspect Zhonghua Li take an aggressive stance and advanced towards the deputies on foot. Witness [redacted] heard both deputies yell commands at Suspect Zhonghua Li, and they ordered him twice to, "Stop." Witness [redacted] did not hear Suspect Zhonghua Li say anything to the deputies. After hearing the deputies' commands, Witness [redacted] focused his attention to the residence where Suspect Zhonghua Li had previously attempted to enter. He heard several gunshots, but could not recall how many shots he heard. After hearing the gunshots, Witness [redacted] ran down the street, away from the scene. Witness [redacted] did not witness the deputy involved shooting **(Witness [redacted] transcript, pages 9-10)**.

**WITNESS [redacted]**

On December 25, 2016, at approximately 0044 hours, Homicide Bureau detectives interviewed Witness [redacted] a minor, at his residence.

While outside playing, Witness [redacted] saw his [redacted] Suspect Zhonghua Li holding a pair of scissors as he was chasing Witness [redacted] on Greenglade Street. Witness [redacted] did not hear Suspect Zhonghua Li say anything to Witness [redacted] Witness [redacted] was in his room before the incident occurred and did not know what precipitated the assault by Suspect Zhonghua Li. After seeing Suspect Zhonghua Li chase Witness [redacted] Witness [redacted] walked away from the location and did not see anything further.

Witness [redacted] stated he was not afraid of his [redacted] Suspect Zhonghua Li. When asked if Suspect Zhonghua Li creates a "commotion" Witness [redacted] stated, "a bit" **(Witness [redacted] transcript, page 3)**.

Witness [redacted] did not witness the deputy involved shooting, but he heard 5-8 shots fired. Witness [redacted] was on Greenglade Street at the time of the shooting, but not near the incident **(Witness [redacted] transcript, page 4)**.

**WITNESS [redacted]**

On December 25, 2016, at approximately 0005 hours, Homicide Bureau detectives interviewed Witness [redacted] at his residence ([redacted] Also, present during the interview was an Internal Affairs Bureau investigator. The interview was conducted in Spanish and translated into English.

On December 24, 2016, at approximately 1700-1730 hours, Witness [redacted] walked outside of his residence and heard yelling. He stood behind the front gate and saw two males and a female running around in the street just north of his residence. Witness [redacted] initially thought the four adults were playing around but noticed, "they were running with fear because someone was chasing them" **(Witness [redacted] transcript, page 1-2)**.

Witness [redacted] walked into his residence for a short time. When he returned outside, he saw a male on his cellphone, and Witness [redacted] believed something may have happened because the male appeared to be calling the police. Shortly after, two patrol units arrived on scene. Witness [redacted] saw a deputy (Deputy Hernandez) retrieve a "large weapon" from the trunk of a patrol vehicle and positioned himself behind his patrol vehicle. Witness [redacted] saw Suspect Zhonghua Li immediately running toward the direction of Deputy Hernandez. Deputy Hernandez retreated backward, away from Suspect Zhonghua Li, and fired "rubber bullets" at Suspect Zhonghua Li approximately five times with a shotgun. Witness [redacted] saw a round struck Suspect Zhonghua Li in abdomen area which caused him to bend forward. Prior to Deputy Hernandez firing the

stun bag, Witness [redacted] heard a person yell, "Shoot him." A second deputy (Deputy Casarez) then began shooting at Suspect Zhonghua Li. He heard Suspect Zhonghua Li scream and fall to the ground. Witness [redacted] did not see any objects in Suspect Zhonghua Li's hand at the time of the shooting. He believed the first deputy only fired the "large weapon" and the second deputy fired approximately eight times **(Witness [redacted] transcript, pages 3-8)**.

Witness [redacted] attempted to record the incident but was unable since the incident happened quickly. He captured a video clip of a female who he believed recorded the incident. Witness [redacted] did not recognize her **(Witness [redacted] transcript, page 18)**.

**WITNESS [redacted]**

On December 25, 2016, at approximately 0025 hours, Homicide Bureau detectives interviewed Witness [redacted] at [redacted] in the city of [redacted] Also, present during the interview was an Internal Affairs Bureau investigator. The interview was conducted in Spanish and translated into English.

Witness [redacted] walked outside of his friend's residence, Witness [redacted] and saw a male Asian talking on a cellphone. Approximately five to six minutes later, he heard sirens from a distance and heard a female screaming just north of where he was standing. When deputies arrived, Witness [redacted] noticed a deputy (Deputy Hernandez) remove a shotgun from the trunk of the patrol vehicle. Witness [redacted] believed the shotgun fired rubber bullets **(Witness [redacted] transcript, pages 2-3)**.

Witness [redacted] saw the silhouette of a man (suspect) running and screaming in the street. Suspect Zhonghua Li ran toward Deputy Hernandez. Deputy Hernandez retreated and yelled out commands for Suspect Zhonghua Li to stop. Witness [redacted] does not speak English but he understood the deputies yelled at Suspect Zhonghua Li to "stop" approximately two or three times. He believed the commands given by the deputies were in attempts to calm Suspect Zhonghua Li down. Suspect Zhonghua Li continued to advance aggressively toward Deputy Hernandez **(Witness [redacted] transcript, pages 6, 11)**.

Deputy Hernandez fired a rubber bullet at Suspect Zhonghua Li, and hit him in the abdomen, which caused Suspect Zhonghua Li to bend forward. Another deputy, Deputy Casarez, fired his handgun approximately eight to ten times. Suspect Zhonghua Li fell to the ground and the deputies detained the suspect at gunpoint. Approximately five to fifteen minutes later, paramedics arrived and rendered aid to the suspect **(Witness [redacted] transcript, pages 5; 10-11)**.

**WITNESS [redacted]**

On December 25, 2016, at approximately 0050 hours, Homicide Bureau detectives interviewed Witness [redacted] at his residence.

**IAB Note: Witness [redacted] is referred to by his middle name, [redacted] during his interview.**

On December 24, 2016, Witness [redacted] received a "Snapchat" message from his neighbor "[redacted]" who lived at [redacted]

**IAB Note: Snapchat is a multimedia messaging application which features pictures and messages, which are only available for a short time before they become inaccessible to their recipients.**

The Snapchat message from "[redacted] **[Exhibit I]** indicated a "Chinese" neighbor was banging on her front door and holding a sharp weapon. Witness [redacted] heard yelling outside of his residence ([redacted]. He walked out to the front porch and saw a "Chinese" female wearing a vest and she was screaming. The female was standing next to an elderly Asian female and a male Asian. All three Asian adults were standing next to his neighbor's garage. Witness [redacted] believed the three Asians were yelling in Chinese. Witness [redacted] saw Suspect Zhonghua Li running aggressively in a northern direction toward one of the females **(Witness [redacted] transcript, pages 1-3)**.

When the deputies arrived, Suspect Zhonghua Li changed his direction and attention toward the arriving deputies. Witness [redacted] saw a bald male deputy (Deputy Hernandez) exit the patrol vehicle and retrieve a "bean bag" shotgun from the trunk of the patrol vehicle. Witness [redacted] was aware of the fact law enforcement officers keep "bean bag" shotguns (stun bag shotgun) in the trunk of the patrol vehicle. Los Angeles Police Department officers have explained to him how stun bag shotguns operate and are typically stored in a bag **(Witness [redacted] transcript, page 8).** A second deputy (Deputy Casarez) stood west of the patrol vehicle and tried to calm Suspect Zhonghua Li down. Witness [redacted] proceeded to record the incident with his cellphone **[Exhibit D]**.

Suspect Zhonghua Li walked aggressively toward Deputy Hernandez. Witness [redacted] heard Deputy Hernandez command Suspect Zhonghua Li to "stop" and heard a second deputy yell out "shoot him." Witness [redacted] heard a single gunshot, which he believed was fired from the stun bag shotgun. The round from the stun bag struck Suspect Zhonghua Li on the chest, which caused him to bend forward, and it shortly appeared to have an effect on the suspect. Suspect Zhonghua Li then raised himself and walked toward Deputy Hernandez. Witness [redacted] believed Deputy Hernandez fired a second round from the shotgun. He also believed Suspect Zhonghua Li was approximately two to three feet from Deputy Hernandez when the stun bag shotgun was fired **(Witness [redacted] transcript, pages 9-10)**.

Deputy Hernandez dropped the shotgun to the ground and removed his handgun from his holster. Deputy Casarez fired three times from handgun at Suspect Zhonghua Li. Witness [redacted] heard Deputy Casarez giving Suspect Zhonghua Li commands of "Stand back, put your hands up, and get back" during the incident **(Witness [redacted] transcript, page 11)**.

Witness [redacted] saw an object in Suspect Zhonghua Li's hand, which he believed was possibly a black pen or knife, and further described the object as "something sharp."

Paramedics arrived at the location approximately seven to twelve minutes after the shooting and rendered aid to the suspect **(Witness [redacted] transcript, page 12)**.

**WITNESS [redacted]**

On December 25, 2016, at approximately 0125 hours, Homicide Bureau detectives interviewed Witness [redacted] at her residence. Also, present during the interview was an Internal Affairs Bureau investigator.

> **IAB Note:** **The interview date indicated in the Homicide casebook [Exhibit A] was noted as December 25, 2017; however, the date was December 25, 2016.**

On December 24, 2016, Witness [redacted] was outside of her residence when she heard yelling. She saw a male (Suspect Zhonghua Li) running toward her direction and she ran back inside the residence. Suspect Zhonghua Li banged on the front door and window of Witness [redacted] residence. Witness [redacted] recognized Suspect Zhonghua Li as a neighbor who lived [redacted] Witness [redacted] and [redacted] were outside the residence when Suspect Zhonghua Li yelled and charged at them **(Witness [redacted] transcript, pages 1- 2)**.

A female (Witness [redacted], whom Witness [redacted] believed to be Suspect Li's [redacted] yelled at Suspect Zhonghua Li in an unknown dialect. Suspect Zhonghua Li removed a Christmas decoration shaped as a candy cane and made of corrugated board from the front door handle of Witness [redacted] residence, and struck Witness [redacted] on the head **(Witness [redacted] transcript, page 2)**.

An unknown male stood with Witness [redacted] while she was on the phone. Suspect Zhonghua Li walked toward the driveway, then ran to the neighboring residence, and returned back to Witness [redacted] residence. Witness [redacted] called the Sheriff's Department and advised a dispatcher of the incident. When Witness [redacted] saw a patrol unit, she advised the dispatcher, and hung up. She then heard an unknown amount of gunshots outside of her residence **(Witness [redacted] transcript, pages 3-4)**.

**WITNESS** [redacted]

On August 5, 2020, at 0836 hours, IAB investigators interviewed Witness [redacted] at the Internal Affairs Bureau office via teleconference.
On December 24, 2016, Witness [redacted] returned home from work between 1645 hours and 1700 hours. Witness [redacted] saw Suspect Zhonghua Li and his family members involved in a "family dispute," which involved shoving and yelling in front of their home. Shortly after, Witness [redacted] exited her residence and stood on her driveway approximately [redacted] away. She saw Suspect Zhonghua Li across the street in front of a neighbor's house. The altercation with Suspect Zhonghua Li and his family members escalated and Witness [redacted] believed a neighbor called the police **(Witness [redacted] transcript, pages 1-2)**.

Moments later, a deputy arrived on scene and pulled out "his weapon" from the trunk of his patrol vehicle. Suspect Zhonghua Li walked toward the direction of the deputy. The deputy yelled commands at the suspect and told him to "stop." Witness [redacted] believed the suspect did not listen or did not understand the commands. He continued to walk toward the deputy and appeared to be "erratic" and "upset." Witness [redacted] further stated, the suspect was "wasn't running towards them (deputy personnel), but he definitely wasn't stopping" **(Witness [redacted] transcript, page 4)**. Witness [redacted] saw the deputy "fire rubber bullets" at the suspect from what she described as a black rifle. Suspect Zhonghua Li did not appear to be effected by the "rubber bullets." A second deputy arrived on scene and used his "lethal weapon." The deputy fired five times at Suspect Zhonghua Li, which caused him to fall to the ground. Witness [redacted] believed Suspect Zhonghua Li may have been under the influence based on his "erratic" behavior **(Witness [redacted] transcript, pages 2-4)**.

Deputies approached Suspect Zhonghua Li with their weapons drawn and requested for medical assistance. Witness [redacted] did not see the suspect move. Fire department personnel arrived approximately three minutes after the shooting and treated the suspect. Witness [redacted] recalled speaking to a deputy that night regarding the incident but does not recall who she spoke to **(Witness [redacted] transcript, pages 4-5)**.

> IAB Note: **Witness [redacted] spoke to Sergeant Creta on December 24, 2016. Their conversation was documented in a supplemental report written by Sergeant Creta (Homicide casebook, Exhibit A, page 12).**

**ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS**

*The following witnesses were interviewed at the scene by patrol units and not recorded. Attempts made by Internal Affairs Bureau investigators for additional interviews were met with negative results **[Miscellaneous Documents]**. For the complete interview, refer to Homicide case book.*

**WITNESS** [redacted]

Witness [redacted] was interviewed by Witness Creta on December 24, 2016. He related the following.

Witness [redacted] was looking out of the front window of his residence when he saw Suspect Zhonghua Li holding a small sharp object in his hand. Suspect Zhonghua Li advanced toward the deputies with the object in his hand. Witness [redacted] saw the first deputy shoot one round from a shotgun. He saw the second deputy empty his entire magazine and he believed the slide to the deputy's firearm was locked to the rear. Witness [redacted] believed there was a third deputy on scene who also fired his firearm but he was unable to recall how many rounds the third deputy shot. Witness [redacted] heard approximately 8-9 rounds altogether **(Homicide casebook, Exhibit A, page 11)**.

**WITNESS** [redacted]

Witness [redacted] was interviewed by Sergeant Creta on December 24, 2016. She related the following.

Witness [redacted] claimed she stood next to her [redacted] Witness [redacted] near the front window and saw the same thing as he did. She refused to provide any further statement **(Homicide casebook, Exhibit A, page 11)**.

**WITNESS** [redacted]

Witness [redacted] was interviewed by Sergeant Creta on December 24, 2016. She related the following.

Witness [redacted] heard yelling and commotion out on the street. She recognized Suspect Zhonghua Li and knew he suffered from mental illness, and was not immediately concerned when she heard the female screaming. Witness [redacted] saw the deputies fire numerous rounds at Suspect Zhonghua Li. She was unable to describe how many times each deputy fired **(Homicide casebook, Exhibit A, page 12)**.

> **IAB Note: Witness [redacted] was scheduled for a telephonic interview with IAB investigators on August 5, 2020; however, she failed to return any phone calls.**

**WITNESS** [redacted]

Witness [redacted] was interviewed by Sergeant Creta on December 24, 2016.

Approximately five minutes prior to the deputies' arrival, Witness [redacted] heard a commotion in the street. He walked outside and heard a female screaming. Suspect Zhonghua Li knocked on a neighbor's front door and it appeared he was trying to enter the residence. Witness [redacted] was not sure what was going on but he recognized Suspect Zhonghua Li as his neighbor who had a history of mental health issues.

Witness [redacted] stood at the edge of the driveway when the deputies arrived. One of the deputies had a shotgun type weapon and Suspect Zhonghua Li walked toward the deputies. Suspect Zhonghua Li's left hand appeared to have a physical disability. Witness [redacted] heard Suspect Li rambling incoherently while he was simultaneously "pumping" both hands, with a small sharp object in his hands. Witness [redacted] heard the deputies give Suspect Li orders but he believed Suspect Zhonghua Li did not speak English. Suspect Zhonghua Li continued to walk toward the deputies, but just before Suspect Zhonghua Li approached the deputies, Witness [redacted] saw an object fall out of Suspect Zhonghua Li's hand. Witness [redacted] believed the object was the weapon Suspect Zhonghua Li held in his hand. Suspect Zhonghua Li continued to "pump" his hand up and down and walked toward the deputies. The deputies shot Suspect Zhonghua Li numerous times **(Homicide casebook, Exhibit A, page 12)**.

**WITNESS [redacted]**

Witness [redacted] was interviewed by Sergeant Creta on December 24, 2016.

Witness [redacted] often heard the neighbors [redacted] the street yelling and knew Suspect Li suffered from mental disabilities. Witness [redacted] heard yelling from down the street for approximately fifteen minutes but did not think much of the yelling because the "Asian family" always yelled. She saw Suspect Zhonghua Li chase some neighbors around in the street. Suspect Zhonghua Li went to a neighbor's house, just [redacted] of Witness [redacted] residence, and kicked the door. Suspect Zhonghua Li ran into her neighbor's back yard and came back out to the street. Witness [redacted] did not call 9-1-1 because she knew Suspect Zhonghua Li suffered from a mental disability. She continued her observation in order to monitor Suspect Zhonghua Li's behavior. Witness [redacted] saw two deputies fire their weapons but she did not recall how many rounds were fired by each deputy or the number of rounds fired in total **(Homicide casebook, Exhibit A, page 12)**.

**WITNESS [redacted]**

Witness [redacted] was interviewed by Deputy Rhoads on December 24, 2016. Witness [redacted] was inside his residence when he heard someone hitting the front door. He looked outside the window and saw Suspect Zhonghua Li holding an object in his left hand. Suspect Zhonghua Li left the front door area and argued with Witness [redacted] Witness [redacted] turned away and did not witness any further **(Homicide casebook, Exhibit A, page 13)**.